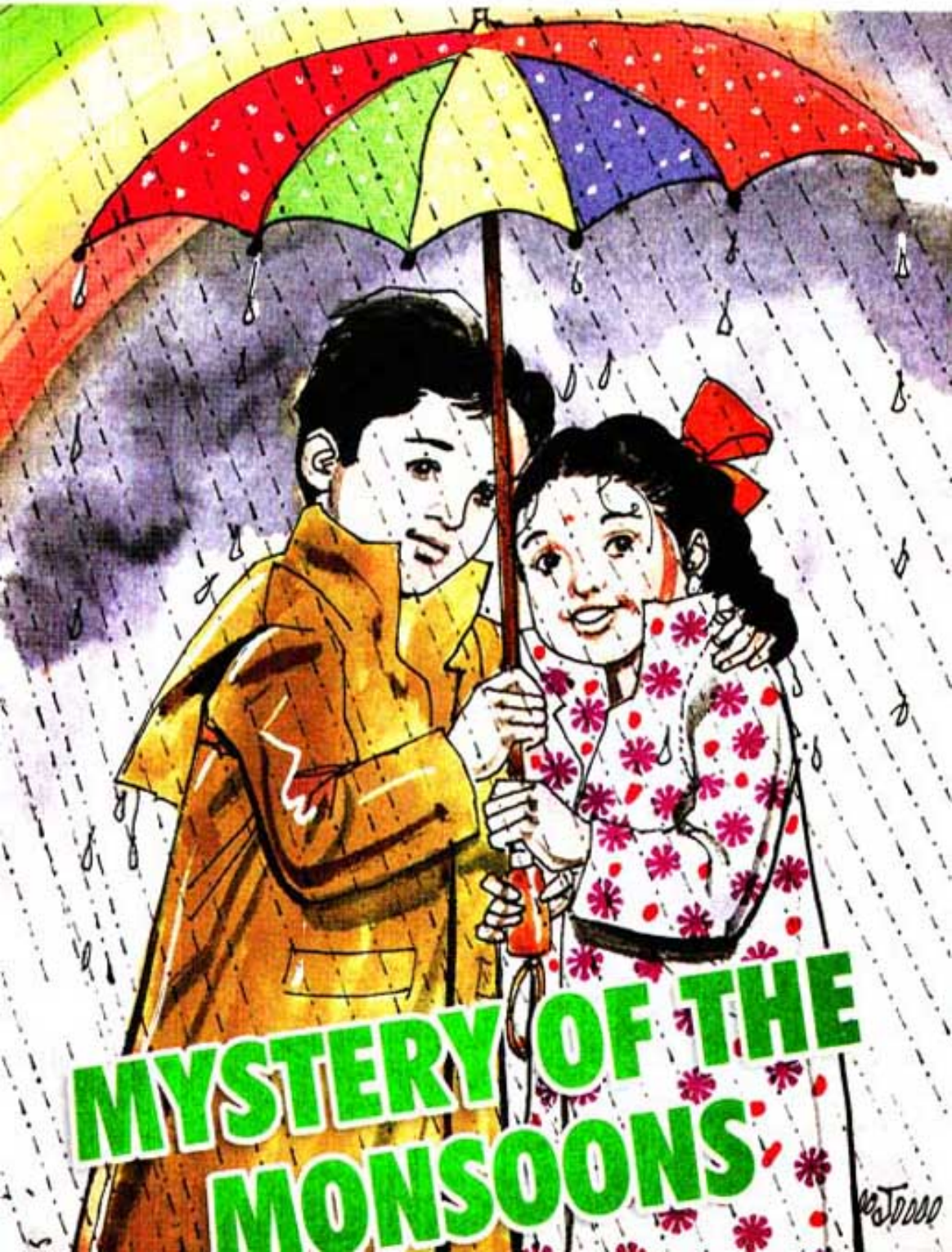
GOKULAM

August 2004 Rs.8/- The magazine for children



MYSTERY OF THE MONSOONS

GAME

HIDDEN PICTURES

Here's a game you can play with your sibling or friend. Look at the picture for one to two minutes. Put away GOKULAM. Write on a sheet of paper all the musical instruments you have seen. Compare with what your opponent has written. Whoever correctly lists the maximum, is the winner!

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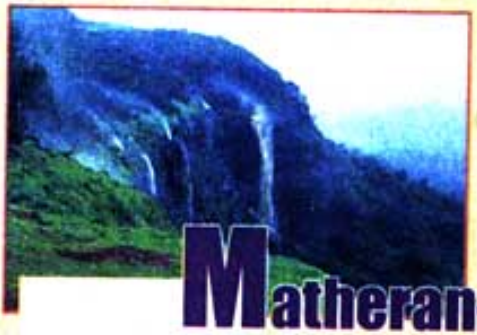

GOKULAM

AUGUST 2004

Vol. XVII, No.2

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

News Analysis

SOFT BUDGETS AND SHARP REACTIONS

It was the Cauvery row so far. Now the focus has shifted to Punjab. The Punjab assembly has passed a resolution to cancel the river water accord with neighbouring states! The governments of Haryana and Rajasthan are fretting and fuming while the center has taken the matter to the supreme court! If each state starts taking unilateral decisions claiming exclusive rights over the rivers originating or passing through it, then God save National Integration!

Laloo Prasad Yadav has submitted his first railway budget and naturally it is very soft without any increase in passenger fares. All sorts of improvements are promised including Laloo's favourite "tea in mud pot" scheme, but people would prefer to be assured about safety during train travel more than anything else. The next request would be passenger amenities and better maintenance of trains and stations including cleanliness.

• Laloo Prasad Yadav

Finance Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram submitted an equally soft budget without much increase in direct taxes. But the "service tax" has proved to be a "Kamadenu"! The net can be spread wider and wider to cover almost any sphere of human activity. The emphasis of the budget is on development of the farming sector and infrastructure. The budget has generally been welcomed except for the transaction tax freshly introduced which has had a bad reaction in the stock markets. The foreign direct investment in certain areas has been opposed even by alliance partners - the communists. It remains to be seen how the finance minister proposes to tackle the situation.

• P. Chidambaram

There was a tragic and serious train accident in the Konkan Railways soon after the new government assumed power at the center. Many people lost their lives and several were injured. The reason it is said is that a boulder got uprooted from the top of the hills and had landed right on the railway track below. This is the second big tragedy in this sector and it is hoped that the authorities have learnt their lessons. "Safety first" should be the attitude of each and every railway employee and it should not be allowed to be just a slogan.

LET'S LEARN FROM MISTAKES

Dear Reader,

A great tragedy occured in Kumbakonam drowning the whole nation in sorrow. The thatched roof of a school caught fire and collapsed killing several children caught in the inferno.

Money and sympathy that is pouring in is not going to bring back the dead. The Tamil nadu government has ordered the dismantling of thatched roof class rooms in all schools.

• Relative in grief during last rites of a child

With growing population and with the promise of universal education enshrined in our constitution, more and more schools are required but very little money is allotted to education. If the cost of construction of school buildings takes up all the money allotted, nothing will be left for teachers or for equipments.

Scientists could suggest cheap fire resistant materials for roofs. Thatched roof or not, students and teachers should be taught about the hazards of fire and its management. Escape routes should be known to everyone and they should learn to act calmly during an emergency. If there had been mock drills with proper fire fighting equipments the tragedy could have been averted.

Let us learn from mistakes of others too. Very soon, dear reader, you will grow up and surely be shouldering responsibilities. Don't forget such tragic events and always remember "prevention is better than cure." The saying holds good not only in connection with your health but also for other areas of day to day life.

- Editor

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The Magazine for Children

Child Achiever

THE LARGE-HEARTED SAVIOUR

She could quite easily be mistaken for the litte girl next door. But this twelve year old daughter of Amita and Rajkumar Muchhal of Indore (Madhya Pradesh) is a wonder child. Even as a baby she enthralled audiences with her music shows; raised funds for the deaf and dumb and the blind.

Baby Palak Muchhal today is not only a star singer but literally a saviour of little hearts! She performs in charity shows all over the country and abroad and the proceeds go towards meeting the cost of heart surgeries of children. This is Palak's mission - to help poor and needy children suffering from heart disease. How did she embark on such a mission? There is a story behind it.

"Smt. Sunita Shukla, my school principal, had heard about my fund raising efforts. She told me about my schoolmate, five year old Lokesh who had a hole in his heart. His parents could not afford the cost of surgery. My parents and I decided to help him. We organised a music show on eighth of March, 2000 and collected fifty five thousand rupees. Star News came to know about this and interviewed me. Dr. Devi Shetty of Manipal Heart Foundation, Bangalore saw the programme and offered to perform the surgery free of cost. Lokesh was operated upon. We tried to return the money we collected to the donors but they did not want it back. But other children came to me to ask for my help. That is how it all started," she stated matter of factly. She has donated Rs. 69 lakhs so far!

We asked her several questions and this is what Baby Palak has to say:

• How did you think of fund raising? What made you think of helping others?

My father is an accounts officer. He can fulfill my needs. But those children who are suffering from heart disease, their father and mother are very poor and they can not collect money for their child's operation.

• Your brother seems to be following in your footsteps? How old is he? What does he do?

My brother Palash is nine years old. He helps me in my mission and he has just started collecting money by doing individual shows for kidney patients. Three kidney patients have been operated upon by his help.

• How do you ensure that the money collected goes towards the operation?

For each show we take Rs.51000 as cheque or DD in the name of the hospital in which the operation is going to be performed, from the organizers.

• To do so many programmes, you must be practicing very hard. You seem to be travelling to many places too. How do you manage to go to school? What about home work and exams? Do the teachers exempt you from doing them?

I am in Std VIII of Shri Agrseen Vidyalay. I cannot attend school regularly but I get cooperation from my school. When I return after a trip they help me to update on lessons. I am good in studies also. I scored 96.5% marks in my V Std Board Exam and was on the merit list.

• Do you have many friends? Do they treat you as a special 'star'?

I have a lot of friends in my school and in my colony. Sometimes they treat me as a special star. When I enter my class after a long holiday, my friends are very excited. They ask me about my show, songs etc. Sometimes they ask me to sing a song and sometimes they request me for my autograph.

• Palash, brother of Palak

• Do you play with them?

Yes, I play so many games with them such as basketball ,badminton carrom etc.

• How many brothers and sisters do you have?Do you have playful fights with your younger brother?

I have only one younger brother. We have tiffs very often.

• What are your favourite food items?

Do you like ice creams? Are you allowed to eat icecreams?

My favorite food items are DalBati, . Idly-Sambhar, Alu Paratha etc. I do not like ice-cream very much because it's very harmful for my throat.

- **Do you watch T.V or movies ? Who is your favourite star?**

Yes, I watch movies in my leisure time. My favourites are Harry Potter , Jimmy Shergil and Preeti Zinta

- **Which do you prefer? Film songs or classical music in your shows?**

I sing all types of songs such as classical, Filmy , Ghazals , kawwalies and non filmy songs.

- **When did you start learning music? Who is your music teacher?**

I was 2 ½ years old when I started singing. I am learning classical music from Kamal Kameleji, play back singing from Kalyanji Anandji (Mumbai) and Pandit Shri Mishraji.

- **Do you have time to read books or magazines? If so, what do you enjoy reading? Do you have any hobbies?**

Reading books is one of my hobbies , I love to read different types of books and novels as well. My favourite novel is 'The Hidden Stars'

- **You have achieved so much at such a young age. You have even made it to the Limca and Guinness Books of Records! I know it is very silly to ask what you would like to be when you grow up? But I was wondering, would you like to continue helping heart patients in the same way(indirectly) or would you like to be a doctor, maybe a cardiologist and directly help them?**

I want to be a play back singer and want to continue to help heart patients in the same way.

- **Whom do you admire the most?**

I want to be like Mother Teresa.

- **How many people have benefited from your fund raisers? How many more want you to help them?**

120 heart patients have benefited by my fund raising and 286 more children want help from me. Besides this I had collected three lakhs for Gujrat earthquake victims, Rs. 51,000 for (Orissa) cyclone affected and Rs.25,000 for soldiers who were wounded during Kargil war.

- **Have you received many awards?**

I have received the President's Child Award and Ramanand award.

- **Would you like to say anything to other children?**

"World is a camera, so keep smiling."

Photographs: **V.P. Raj**

Letter Box

✉ I have been a Gokulam reader for many years. I count the days for every issue and as soon as I buy a copy, I read it at one stretch. I read some of the stories and articles many times. Can you make Gokulam a weekly instead of monthly?

- Rahul G.S.Reddy,
Std IX,
Don Bosco School,
Mumbai

✉ I have been reading Gokulam and feel it is the easiest, enthusiastic, economical, enjoyable and effective, "ENCYCLOPEDIA."

- S. Bharat Prabhu,
Std X, MCC HSS School,
Chennai

✉ Wish you a Happy Birthday. We are Harry Potter and Gokulam fans. We welcome more "Potter Mania" along with attractive pictures.

- Gayathri S. & Sowmya R.
Chennai

✉ I enjoyed the July issue of Gokulam especially the personality column on Enid Blyton, my favourite author. Please feature other famous authors like Ruskin Bond and R.K. Narayanan too.

- Varsha N.
Std X, Carmel Convent High School,
Bangalore

✉ I enjoy reading 'Grandma Worm' in Gokulam. Infact, some of my problems have been solved by reading it. Thanks, Gokulam.

- N. Krithiga,
Chennai

✉ My father presented a Gokulam subscription for my birthday last year. Since then my English and general knowledge have improved considerably. As a result, I won a prize in a recent competion. Thank you, Gokulam

- Aditya V.
Kochi

✉ I am a regular reader of Gokulam. Once I took it to school and everyone was asking me for it. Then our teacher gave a day's time for reading to the whole class and they all enjoyed it. We like the picture stories and Grandma Worm best.

- Akshatha Upadhya,
Bangalore

Sports Talk

TRIUMPH AT WIMBLEDON

Is it the end of the Williams' era? Women's tennis was becoming irritatingly predictable with noone having an answer to the power game that the Williams sisters brought to the ladies' court. Venus Williams, who ushered Steffi Graf out of the scene, and then not-so-little sister Serena Williams who took Venus' spot as the number one player as cool as you please. Justine Henin-Hardenne was the only player who looked capable of beating Serena, and that too only on clay. Grass court tennis belonged to Serena Williams, of course.

And then, along came Maria Sharapova. When this beautiful Russian first appeared on TV, she was inevitably equated with compatriot Anna Kournikova, who made more money than most of her colleagues even though she never won a single WTA tournament. Sharapova was furious. She maintained that she wasn't just a pretty face, that she could hit those groundstrokes too. Not too many were convinced, Sharapova proved them all wrong. She won Wimbledon.

(See Gokulam poster)

No one who watched Serena Williams knock her opponents over like bowling pins in the opening rounds of the tournament would have expected the script to be altered so dramatically. It was only when she struggled to get past French woman Amalie Mauresmo in the semis that a few people began to wonder... Meanwhile, Sharapova went on her brilliant, but erratic fashion all the way to the finals. The game against Lindsay Davenport in her semi-final encounter was a case in point. On occasion she sprayed the ball all over the place, but when she got it right, there was no chance for veteran Davenport. If only Sharapova could cut down on those unforced errors she might give Serena Williams a fight.

It was a little disappointing that the defending champion didn't find her feet at all. But she was never consistent. Sharapova on the other hand was stunning, both in her groundstrokes as well as in the consistency of her serve, and she deservedly lifted the trophy.

In the men's circuit, the dream final took place - first seed vs second seed, finesse vs blistering pace, the brash American vs the eccentric Swiss. Both Andy Roddick and Roger Federer were in the form of their lifetime, and though the game didn't quite live up to expectation, the sudden swing in momentum after the first set, where Roddick looked invincible, made it a memorable game, And Federer defended his championship. Talented beyond belief, Federer looks good to break a few records, and live up to his billing as the new Pete Sampras!

* Roger Federer

Abhinav Ramnarayan

8

SPOT IT RIGHT

Rules and Regulations

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed picture and answer accepted on this form only • No xerox copies. **Last Date : 12.08.2004**

Assemble the five scrambled jigsaw pieces to complete the picture and write the answer.
Hint: An insect. It is not a butterfly. The name of the species is a synonym of king.

ANSWER : (E)○○(P)○○○○(R)
○○○○

Space for completed picture

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

Residential Address : .....

.....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

**The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097.**

Story

The school board had decided to celebrate the year as the "YEAR OF BOOKS". The school librarian suggested that a student library squad be formed to teach the students the value of books, how to handle them carefully etc.

Seniors with good legible hand writing could be selected to register borrowed books. Others could take turns accepting returned books, stamping cards, filling them etc. Students were selected to become 'library squad members.' They proudly sported badges that were given to them.

Jyoti of class ten along with her best friends, Neha, Ruchi, Kasturi and Shalini felt honoured to be part of the Squad. "We, the Five Find-outers have solved many a mystery. Wonder if we'll have anything to solve this time," Neha mused.

"Pooh, what possibly could go wrong in a library?" jeered Kasturi.

The library worked smoothly for the first few months. Then suddenly things began to go wrong.

"Many illustrated pages from expensive reference books are missing," the worried librarian told the squad members. "I will be glad if you could discreetly find out who the culprit is. Tell me first if you suspect anything."

The girls went into a huddle. 'The culprit is obviously a girl who refers to books in the library since only story books are lent out,' they decided.

Neha was on shelf duty when Roopa of class six approached her. She wanted to know which books she could refer to for completing her assignment: 'Nature Study.' Neha advised her.

The 'find-outers' had their first clue. The culprit was most likely a girl from class six. They were going after reference books for their project work.But which of the three sections did the 'page pincher' belong to? Although they tried their best to keep track of the girls who used the reference books, they could not find the culprit because all the girls were using these books for the project.

One day they overheard a part of a conversation. "It is astonishing how Sudha has managed to collect so many wonderful pictures for the project. Wonder where she got them from!" It was Sushma of VI B talking to her class mate. "She was mentioning that there were none at home to help her." The Find outers were delighted. They reported the matter to the Librarian.

"Look, this is only a hunch! Let's try to catch her red handed," the librarian said.

Jyoti suggested "If you could ask the VI B class teacher to announce a prize for the best marine life pictures, maybe Sudha will be tempted to cut pictures again!"

When Sudha entered the library the next day, the 'find-outers' were hiding behind a book-shelf. She looked around furtively and walked down to the reference section. She pulled out an encyclopaedia and quickly turned the pages till she found what she wanted. She then took out a small pair of scissors from her pocket.

THE PICTURE PINCHER

At once the 'find-outers' stepped out of their hiding places. "Stop it! You have been caught red handed in the act of destroying expensive library books. You have done it in the past too," they said.

The five 'find-outers' had won again - and appropriately in the Year of Books!

- Neela Subramaniam, Chennai

Factory Visit

QUENCH YOUR THIRST!

Water, water every where, not a drop to drink! Today in India, why, all over the world this situation prevails. In fact, there is even speculation that the next World War will be for water! Pure drinking water is now a rare commodity.

The ubiquitous packaged drinking water has now replaced filtered and boiled water even in homes. Excessive pollution in water sources like wells, lakes and rivers and the scare of water borne diseases has led to switching over to bottled water.

How pure is packaged water? Does it really guarantee safety? A young team of five Gokulam readers visited Sabols water plant at Thodukkadu village near Chennai, to investigate. The 'five investigators' were ten to thirteen year olds, Deviprasad, Avantika, Rachna, Madhushri and Aditi.

After putting on caps and changing into rubber slippers, they entered the plant. The plant manager explained the processes involved from the raw water stage to the bottling stage.

Water is pumped into a 75,000 litre tank from hundred and fifty feet deep borewells. It is then sent into sand filters consisting of sand, gravel and pebbles to remove turbidity. Next it is passed through activated carbon filters. This is done to deodourise and decolourise the water.

After this the water enters the pesticidal polisher. "This is the only plant in India which ensures removal of poisonous pesticides," pointed out Mr. Selvarangan, the plant manager. The children promptly asked him about the cola scare in the country last year. He assured them that this water was free from Malathion and D.D.T.

The next stage is micron filtration where even minute pollutants (five microns) would be removed. Their Reverse Osmosis plant produces thousand litres of pure water per hour. The water in this area is acidic. So sodium hydroxide is added to boost the ph factor to seven (ISI standards - 6.5-8.5)

The water then enters the post filtration stage where ultra violet rays are passed to disinfect water by killing bacteria, viruses, moulds and yeasts. All the (anti corrosive) stainless steel tanks are cleaned by using boiling water and detergents once in fifteen days. Not content with UV treatment, an ozone generator is used for disinfection . This has residual effect and increases shelf life to six months!

The pure safe drinking water could get contaminated while bottling since it is handled manually wondered the children when they saw the filling line.

Bubble top cans undergo a eleven wash cleaning process in the bottling area which is sterile. HEPA air cutters prevent pollutants from entering it. The workmen wash hands with soap, use gloves, face masks, apron, and rubber slippers before they enter.

• Sand filters

• Gokulam team members at the plant

Sabols uses a hologram seal to prevent imitation. Date of manufacture and expiry, Batch No. and MRP are clearly pasted. The children tried their hand at affixing these stickers.

Sabols continuously monitors the parameters at each stage in a fully fledged lab on the premises. Samples are taken every hour and tested for soluble chemicals, aerobic and anaerobic bacteria and fungi.

"Why can't we just boil and drink the water", asked the kids.

"Most bacteria are killed when water is boiled but some anearobic bacteria can survive" the microbiologist clarified. "Also boiling must be done in the proper manner. Otherwise bacteria in water can cause dysentery, cholera, typhoid and other deadly diseases" he cautioned.

At the end of the tour, the children were convinced about the health and safety standards at the plant. They were doubly reassured when Mr. Jayaraam, Marketing Manager who escorted the team, claimed that Sabols not only had ISI certification but was the only manufacturer in the country certified by the Asian Bottled Water Association, whose standards are world class.

The investigators from Gokulam were satisfied with the evidence and pronounced the verdict that the water was absolutely safe for drinking!

Grandma Worm

Dear Grandma worm,

I am sixteen, and when I talk with girls some of my friends tease me. Is talking to girls a bad culture?

R. Satyaprakash, Hubli

Dear Satya,

No, talking to persons of the opposite sex is not bad culture as long as you respect them. As you have yourself pointed out in your letter, you should look upon them as your sisters and they should treat you like a brother. Some children are by nature extroverts and they get along well with others even if they are of the opposite sex. Other children by nature are shy and avoid company, especially of the opposite sex. But some times they feel jealous of those who mingle freely with others. Don't worry about this. As long as you are sure of yourself, and as long as you don't transgress the limits of decency and culture, you're okay.

***

My English is fairly good but I want to improve on it. Reading a lot of story books has not improved my fluency. Please help.

Nirmala Kamath, Kannur
Queena S. Dsouza, Mangalore

Dear Nirmala and Queena,

Judging from your letters your written English is okay. But I assume you are unable to speak the language fluently. To be able to converse in English, you need practise. Try talking to everybody you know in English. Ask them also to talk to you in English. Correct each other without hesitation and without making fun of each other. Listen to spoken English in the B.B.C.channel as often as you can and later on try to repeat what you heard. All these exercises will certainly improve fluency.

***

When I come home from school in the afternoon, I feel very tired and go to sleep. In the evening I feel like playing. Help me to find the time to study.

Reema Bandekar, Panajim

Every day I get up at 7a.m. but I want to get up at 6 a.m. Even an alarm clock is of no use.

Varun, Bangalore

I feel sleepy and go to bed at 8.30 p.m. Please tell me how to keep awake till 10 p.m. so that I can read my lessons.

S.Vignesh, Visakhapatnam

Dear Varun, Vignesh and Reema,

Children like you need 8 to 9 hours of sleep, especially if you participate in outdoor games. The body needs the rest. It's better to sleep at a stretch and not in instalments. So, plan your day in such a way to afford this amount of sleep.

Remember the age old saying, "Early to bed and early to rise, is the best way to be healthy, happy and wise." I'm sure with proper planning all of you will be able to study well, besides finding time to play and to get sufficient rest.

***

My friend is very short considering his age and this creates some amount of inferiority complex. Can you give some tips for him to improve his height?

M. Dickens Leonard, Trichy

Dear Dickens,

There are mainly two reasons for a person being short for his age. a) Hereditary factors and b) hormonal deficiency. If your friend is not past the age of growth there is hope. He must improve on his diet and exercise. His meals should contain lots of vitamins, iron and other minerals like calcium, iodine etc., He must select the proper fruits and vegetables. A dietician can help. Green leafy vegetables are a must. As for the hormonal deficiency he can go to a good yoga expert and learn from him sarvangasana, sirasasana, halasana etc., which are sure to improve his thyroid, pituitary and adrenal glands, resulting in fairly good growth. All these should be done under expert care and advice.

***

I want to take up a career in writing, but my parents want me to join IIT. I have equal interest in both. Please advise.

P. Karthik Ramaswamy, Chennai

Dear Karthik,

Writing as a career may not be paying in the initial stages, unless you are able to join a publishing institution on a fairly good monthly salary. Since you have equal interest in the professional course as well, my advice to you would be to take up the IIT course, so that you have an assured future. Writing can be taken up by you as a hobby and in course of time if you excel in it and earn recognition, you can switch over to writing as a full time career.

Love, Grandma worm

IS TALKING TO GIRLS, A BAD CULTURE?

NOISE POLLUTION

No one bothers about noise pollution. If we continuously hear high pitched sounds, our hearing capacity will gradually diminish. Once the cells in our ears are affected, they cannot be set right again.

A quiet and peaceful house - 20 decibels	Shouted conversation - 100 decibels
Normal conversation - 40 decibels	Horns from vehicles - 100 decibels
The ringing of a telephone bell - 60 decibels	Speeches/songs from loudspeakers - 120 decibels

It has been proved that if we hear sounds of more than 85 decibels, our hearing capacity will start diminishing. Let's minimize noise pollution. Let's look forward to a healthy and prosperous tomorrow.

Penpals

Name : **S. Srividhya**
Age : 14
Address : No. 143, Sundaram Nagar, VII St, Medical College Road, Thanjavur - 4
Hobbies : Listening to music, reading Gokulam, watching T.V.

Name : **J.Madhuri**
Age : 11
Address : MIG II B 90, Vuda Colony, Vinayak Nagar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam - 44, A.P.
Hobbies : Collection of coins, stickers, reading, watching T.V., playing, chatting, cycling.

Name : **P. Gopikrishna**
Age : 15
Address : Shikharam Apts, Flat No.110, Opp. to Spice Garden, Airport - Vartur Road, Bangalore - 560 037
Hobbies : Reading, playing cricket, football, browsing, watching T.V.

A FRIENDLY LETTER; A JOY FOREVER!

Name : **V.S.S. Jagannath Kaushal**
Age : 13
Address : 113/3RT, Vijay Nagar Colony, Hyderabad - 500 057
Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, playing cricket, reading newspapers, chatting with friends.

Name : **Priyanka Rao**
Age : 16
Address D.No. 60(2), Matruchaya Bldg. Gokul Nagar, Kulai, Mangalore - 574196. Karnataka
Hobbies : Reading books, singing, surfing the net, making friends, playing badminton, cycling, travelling

Name : **Sagar, K.Maru**
Age : 13
Address : 204-B, Ambika Apt, 90ft Road, Mulund(East) Mumbai - 400 081.
Hobbies : Reading books, cycling, trekking, travelling

Name : **M.Martina**
Age : 14
Address : 57, Bafna Layout, Karwar Road, Hubli-24.
Hobbies : Reading books, Dancing, Drawing, singing and playing computer games.

Mythology

HANUMAN -THE HUMBLE HERO

All of us know that Hanuman was strong and brave besides being full of wisdom. But he was also humble. This is a story which illustrates his humility.

Sage Narada and Thumburu had a dispute to settle. Both of them were talented in playing the veena. But, of the two, who was more talented?

They argued and demonstrated their skill to others. But none could give a definite answer. Thumburu and Narada descended to the earth in search of a qualified person who could judge their musical talent.

While wandering about, they met Hanuman taking rest on a rock near a mountain stream. They represented their case to him and requested Hanuman to judge them.

"I do not know whether I am competent to judge you!" said Hanuman. "Let me play the veena for you. Hear me, and decide if I am really qualified to sit in judgement over you!"

So saying, Hanuman took the veena from Narada and started playing on it. It was so melodious that both Narada and Thumburu closed their eyes and were soon lost in the music. After some time the music stopped. Thumburu and Narada opened their eyes to witness a strange sight!

The rocks around them had melted and the liquid was flowing into the stream! As for the rock on which Hanuman was sitting, it had also become soft. The bottom portion of the veena which was resting on the rock, had got stuck in the molten rock and Narada had a tough time retrieving it.

Both Narada and Thumburu now realised that the music of Hanuman was far superior to theirs and they felt ashamed for having argued amongst themselves as to who was more talented.

They thanked Hanuman for teaching them a lesson and went their way.

The raga played by Hanuman on the veena on this occasion is referred to as 'Kundakriya' or 'Hanuman Thodi'!

- Krishnaveni Ranganathan, Chennai

TAP YOUR

I Picture Perfect

Try identifying these Indian places with the help of the clues by combining the picture and the word.

The first one is done for you.

+ alore

(It is known as the garden city)
Ans: Bangalore

1.

+ ark

(sun temple is situated here)

2.

+ pur

(It is one of the seven sister states)

3.

+ ali

(a famous hill station)

4.

+ pur

(It is famous for its oragnes)

5.

+ hura

(Lord Krishna spent his childhood here)

6. Co +

?

(A port famous for its prawns)

7. In +

(gems are exported from this city)

- Drawings and puzzles devised by Vidhya Venkatachalam, II B.Com, MOP Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai

HEAD IN FUN!

II Mathemagic

Write down the number '1089' on a piece of paper and place it in a sealed envelope. Then ask your friend to write down any 3 digit number (Make sure each of the digits is a different number)

Now ask him to reverse the number and subtract the smaller from the greater. Ask him to reverse the answer and add this number to the previous answer.

Ask him to open your sealed envelope for the answer. He will be stunned to see that his answer tallies with what is written on the slip of paper(i.e)1089!

(Eg) If he chooses 123, the reverse is 321

$$\begin{array}{r} 321 \\ -\ 123 \\ \hline 198 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 198 \\ +\ 891 \\ \hline 1089 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

If a zero occurs in any calculation it should also be put down.(eg). Reverse of 980 is 089.

- V. Mahadevan
VI-B,
P.S.Sr.Sec.School,
Chennai

III Riddles

i. What follows a cat whenever it goes?

ii. What has 100 tails and 100 heads?

By T.S.Balu,
Chennai-42

a. Which is the alphabet that keeps us waiting?

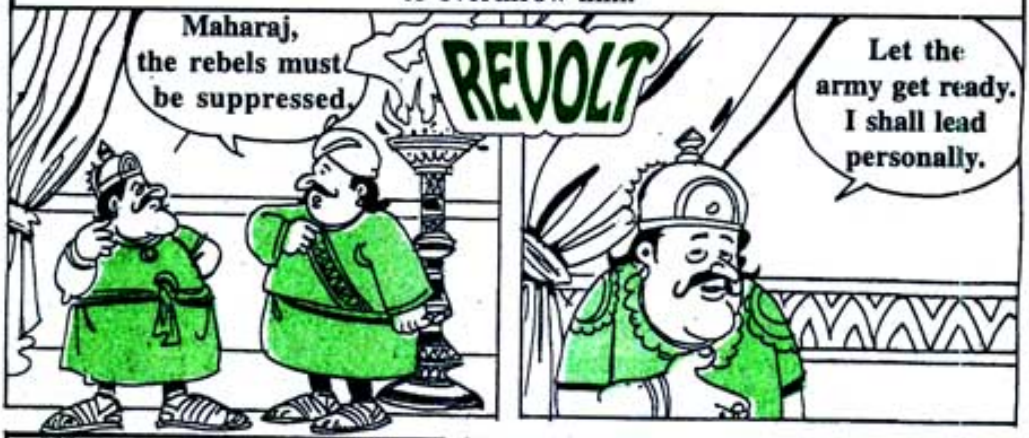
b. Which is the alphabet that describes all of us?

c. Which is the largest pan?

Vivek C. Vijayan,
VIII D, St.John's High School,
Bangalore

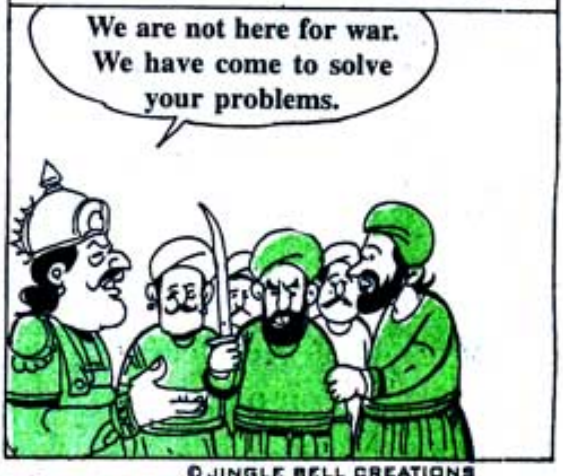
Answers on page - 64

Once upon a time, A king named Vishwadarsha ruled Magadha. A section of his subjects who did not agree with his policies called for a revolt in order to overthrow him.



When the army approached the rebels.

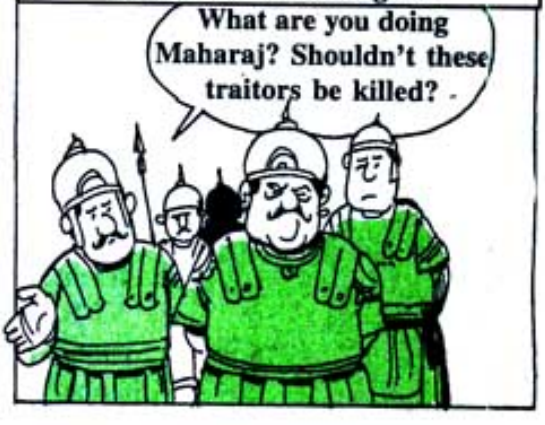
The king turned towards the rebels.

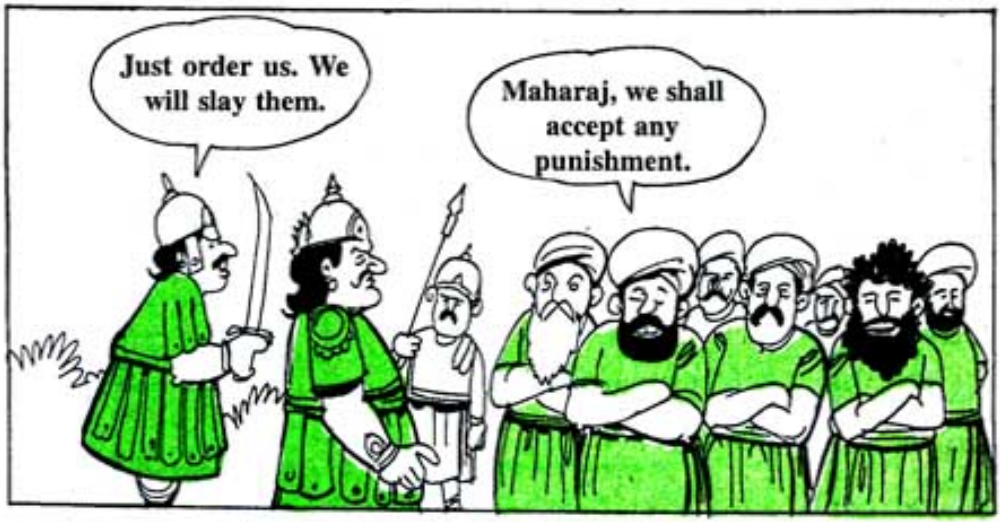


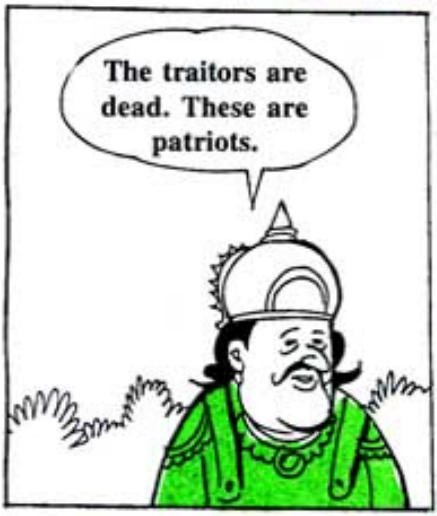
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

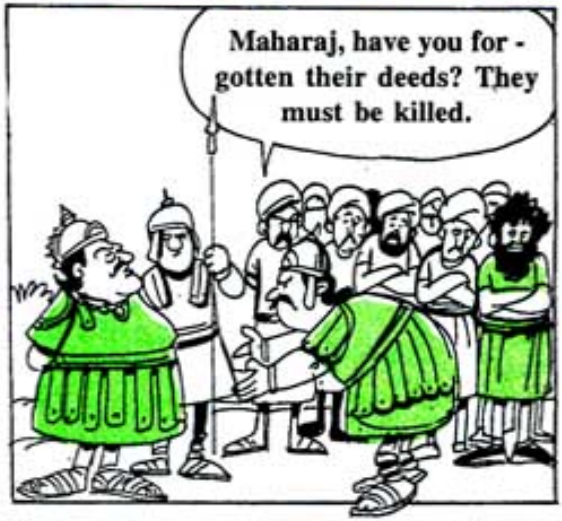
The rebels were dumbfounded. They laid down their weapons.

The minister and the army general did not like what the king did.



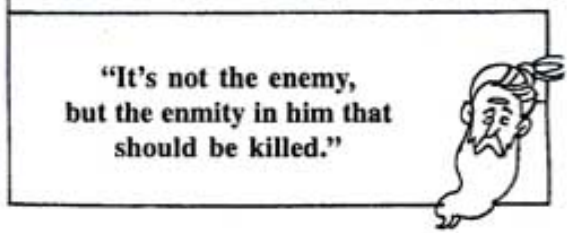

Just order us. We will slay them.
Maharaj, we shall accept any punishment.


The traitors are dead. These are patriots.

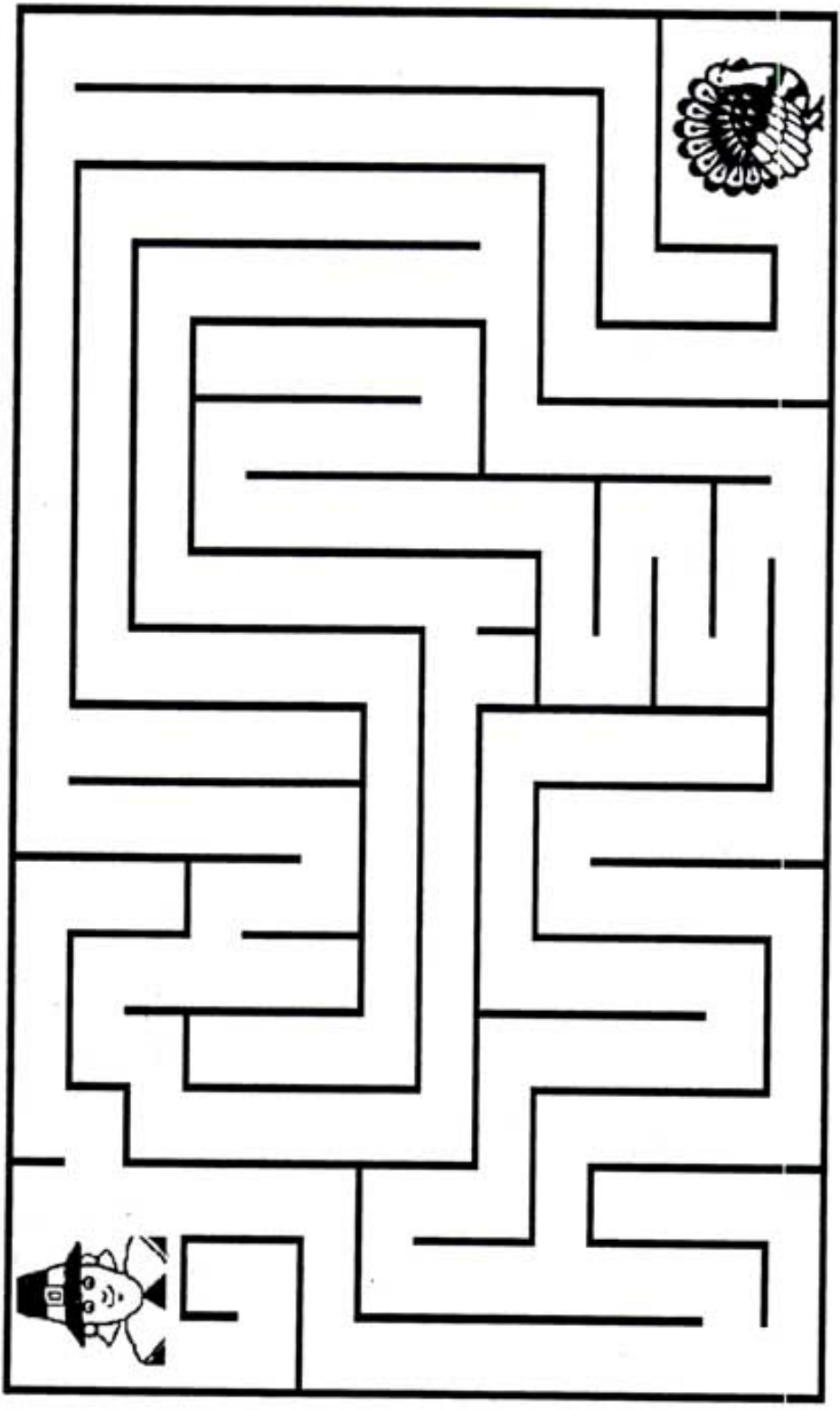

Maharaj, have you for - gotten their deeds? They must be killed.

A king's virtue is to overcome enmity with love and cruelty with mercy.

The war is over. These are our friends.


"It's not the enemy, but the enmity in him that should be killed."

HELP THE PILGRIM FIND THE TURKEY



ART GALLERY

Astha Mallika,
Std V, St. Mary's
School,
Barbil, Orissa

P. Manoj
Std X,
NKMHS School,
Vellore

Sarah Parveen,
Std VI, K.V.Gachi
Bowli, Hyderabad

B. Priyanka,
Std V, Indira Priyadarshini
Girls High School,
Bangalore

Sreena
Gopinathan Nair,
Std V, SICES
High School,
Ambarnath, Maharashtra

Kriti Samantray,
Std IX, K.V.No.1
Bhubaneswar

Hello, Doctor!

SMOKE NOW; SUFFER LATER!

● **Neelima Chakraborty, West Bengal.**

? Why don't the arteries have valves?

! Blood flowing from the heart is pumped through the arteries to the various body parts. The force given by the heart should be maintained through out the arteries to reach the upper and lower extremities of our body. In addition to this, the arteries have to constrict and dilate to push the blood uniformly. If they have valves, the valves would restrict the force of the blood flow and the circulatory system will not function properly.

● **G. Rajapandian, Salem**

? How does smoking cause heart attack?

! Tobacco smoke contains more than 4,000 components. Some of them are nicotine, carbon monoxide, benzene, ammonia, hydrogen cyanide and toluene. Of these nicotine and carbon monoxide, in particular, are more harmful to our heart. Nicotine stimulates the adrenal glands which in turn increases the heart rate and blood pressure. The heart now needs a bigger supply of oxygen but the platelets in the blood become sticky and may clump in the coronary artery causing blockage of the blood supply to the heart muscle. Thus heart attack occurs. Carbon monoxide combines with haemoglobin present in the blood to form a compound called carboxyhaemoglobin. Therefore, the heart muscle is now deprived of haemoglobin rich in oxygen resulting in heart attack. Moreover, carboxyhaemoglobin speeds up the fat deposits inside the walls of the coronary artery. This may also cause heart attack.

● **S. Vidya, Chennai**

? What is diabetes? How does it occur?

! Diabetes is a metabolic disorder which is caused by the deficiency of insulin or the inability of the body cells to use

Dr. G. GANESAN

the available insulin. Insulin is a hormone produced in the pancreas. It helps to oxidize glucose in the body in order to release energy and it controls the concentration of glucose in the blood. With insufficient insulin, the glucose is not oxidized properly and accumulates in the blood, causing the symptoms of diabetes.

- **S. Jagadish, Chennai**

? How is the human blood classified into various blood groups?

! The classification of blood groups is based on the different types of antigens present on the surface of the red blood cells. The human blood group is broadly classified into four groups called A, B, AB and O. The letters stand for the type of antigen present on the red blood cells. The blood group A contains the antigen A, the blood group B contains the antigen B and the blood group AB contains both the antigens A and B. The blood group O contains neither the antigen A nor B. Hence the name O. Do you know who discovered the blood groups? Landsteiner.

- **L. Vethamaaliga, Coimbatore**

? What is a mole? Why does it occur on our body?

! A mole is a concentration of melanin pigments in the inner layer of the skin. It may occur at any part of our body. It may or may not be raised slightly above the skin surface. It is just a formation on the skin, like hair. It is harmless unless it changes suddenly in its size, colour etc. These changes could be an indication of cancer and so medical attention should be sought immediately.

- **K. Kalavathi, Bangalore**

? Why does it itch when a wound starts healing?

! Itching on the skin is due to the action of a chemical called histamine released from the mast cells. When a wound starts healing, the

number of white blood cells increases. Of them one kind of white blood cells called basophils contains relatively a large amounts of histamine. Histamine from these basophils diffuses into the skin nearby and stimulates the nerve endings leading to itching

Serial Chapter-2

THE INTERNATIONAL ROBBERY

Mike's flight arrived. He came out after collecting his baggage. Tall and fair, Mike looked very much like a Britisher. He was tense, slightly reserved and kept looking back. "Mike, are you looking for someone?" asked Anil.

"No, oh no!" Mike hastened to the car.

In the car, Asha and Anil tried to engage Mike in conversation. He replied in monosyllables and kept looking out through the rear window.

"Mike are you ill? Is anything wrong?" asked Asha.

"No, probably the heat... Oh no! I think we are being followed. See that white car?" Mike pointed out.

The driver said, "Yes sir, that Maruti has been following us from the airport."

Asha and Anil turned to look. "Driver, please do something to stop them," begged Anil.

"I have to drive very fast. It's going to be risky. I'll try," promised the driver.

"Wow! a filmi style car chase!" Asha was thrilled.

"Asha, be serious for once, this is real life" admonished Anil. They fastened their seat belts and held on to their seats, while the driver accelerated and negotiated the traffic. There were several narrow misses while the driver overtook several vehicles. But the white Maruti still tailed them.

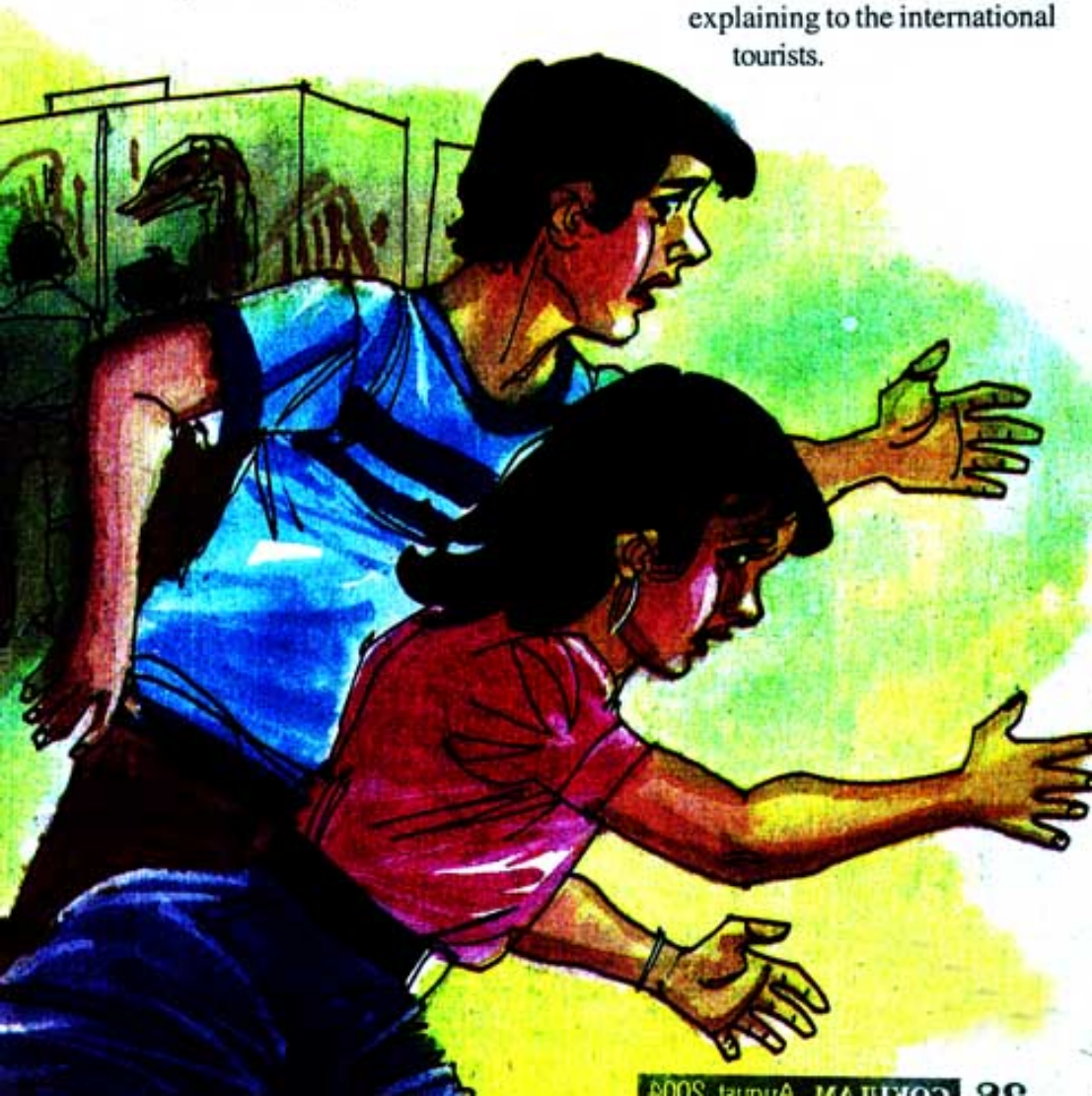
Finally, the driver managed to overtake a water tanker and after that the white Maruti was nowhere in sight. Mike praised the driver.

"Water tankers carry heavy loads. They do not like anybody overtaking them since their brakes are not in good condition. I managed to overtake the tanker, but after that he made sure nobody else did that," the driver proudly explained.

Safely back home, the children relaxed their guard. After dinner, they planned their city sight seeing for the next day. Next morning they went over to the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development office and booked their tickets for the morning and evening tours.

As they were boarding their bus, Mike pointed urgently, "look, the white Maruti! Oh god! It's the same car!"

Their first stop was Santhome Cathedral. "St. Thomas was interned here. The church was built in 1606..." The guide was explaining to the international tourists.



Asha warned, "Those two men are right behind us." Mike and Anil turned and spotted the big, burly and evil looking men.

The next stop was the Kapaleeswarar temple, an 8th century Pallava structure. The boys clicked several photographs.

They then went to the National Art Gallery. "The paintings belong to sixteenth and eighteenth century Mogul period from Rajasthan. The Deccan art paintings are of seventeenth century" The guide was in a hurry to take them to the Government Museum.

"I can't walk any more. Let me stay here" said Asha in a tired voice.

"You can't be left alone. Those men might hurt you." Mike was worried.

"Let me handle this" Anil said. "Asha, my dear, inside there are Chola period bronzes. Who knows, you might find the king who gifted the tiara to our great, great, great, great, grand father!"

"May be a replica of the diamond tiara." Mike laughed.

"How do you know about the diamond tiara?" Asha asked suspiciously.

"Granny must have told him, I guess." said Anil.

Asha watched Mike heave a sigh of relief and wipe his sweat.

There were rows and rows of weapons, coins, pre historic exhibits of stone age and iron age. Asha, Mike and Anil had drifted away from the group. Suddenly Mike whispered, "let's get out of here. They are right behind us."

Asha and Anil saw a man with a big nose walking towards them menacingly.

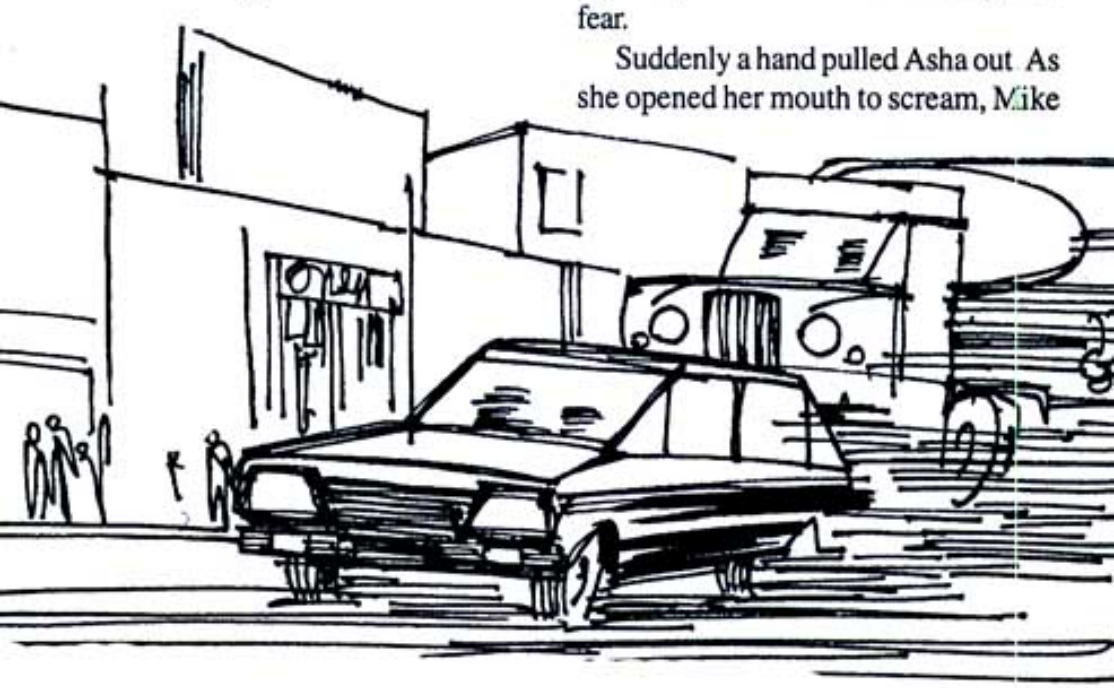
"Run," Anil whispered.

They ran to the entrance door. The other man was right there waiting for them.

"We are trapped," Mike was nervous.

"Duck and hide in the rows of costumes," Anil ordered as he ran. Asha ran as fast as she could and hid behind a victorian party gown. There was complete silence in the room. The men were searching every exhibit. Asha was trembling with fear.

Suddenly a hand pulled Asha out. As she opened her mouth to scream, Mike



whispered, "It's me!" They both ran towards the entrance door and joined the crowd in the hall of Chola bronzes. They were relieved to see Anil behind them.

"Let us join the group and then escape" Anil decided. Asha was too tired to argue.

They went to Fort St. George with the oldest anglican church built in 1680. "It also contains the oldest British tomb stones in India. Robert Clive was married here," the guide went on.

They cancelled the evening tour and rushed back home as fast as they could.

Asha asked Anil, "who are they? Why are they following us?"

"I've no idea. Perhaps we should ask Mike." Anil looked at Mike.

"Me? My guess is as good as yours!" Mike shrugged. They ate their lunch in silence.

While Mike was washing his hands Asha said, "Mike is not telling the truth. Let us confront him."

"No, not now. Let us gather some more proof. Meanwhile we should be very careful. Remember not a word to our parents in Colombo," Anil warned. "We must be careful. Those two men will not like our little escape."

"But, they do not know where we live" Asha said.

"Just as we noted their car number they will have our car number too. As we had hired the car, it will be easy to trace us through the agency. Mark my words. They will be here soon" Anil said.

"I think you are turning into a real Sherlock Holmes, big brother," Asha teased.

"I rather like Bond - James Bond better," Anil said loftily.

The phone rang loudly, as Mike came back to the room.

(To be continued)

Tech Talk

SPY THE

Raja looked at his watch. The little bit of silicon was still shining brightly. It was Viz, the knowledge storehouse that rolled off a computer. A sneaky thought came to his mind. " Why not take Viz to the exam hall with me? He could place all the answers in my mind."

" Uh..uhn..." said Viz (Viz doesn't talk like we do, but flashes the answer in Raja's mind.) " I am an ethical chip. That means I don't allow cheating. Besides if the exam hall has a metal detector, then they'll detect me!"

Raja: Oh come on, you can hardly be seen. As if a metal detector can trace you. And you are not even metal!

Viz: Didn't you know, the mass is not important? Sure, the size is important. But the shape and, the position, the electrical conductivity and magnetic capacity of an object are the qualities that help its detection. I am not a metal but can partly conduct electricity.

Raja: If I put you in my pencil box or purse...?

Viz: Actually you could. Metal detectors are not very efficient in searching handbags, brief cases and purses, where there may be many small objects made of different metals such as your keys, pens, coins etc. That is why in airports and high security areas they ask you to give your bags and purses for manual checking.

Raja: How does the detector work?

Viz: It works on the relationship between electricity and magnetism. When you pass current through a coil of wire, it creates a weak magnetic field. In the "walk through" metal detector, one side sends short bursts of current. (The other side has a receiver.) This current creates a magnetic field. When

the current stops, the magnetic field reverses polarity and creates or "induces" a new burst of current...

Raja: What! Don't tell me that we are actually walking through electricity!

Viz: Not electricity. We walk through a magnetic field caused by electricity and anyway it is too weak to affect us, they say...The detector checks how much time it takes between the current sent and the current induced and the strength of the induced current.

Raja: But Viz, how will this detect a gun..?

Viz: A detector will show up anything that conducts electricity,

not just a gun. A conducting material will make a magnetic field of its own. This makes the induced current last longer. This difference is noted by the receiver.

Raja: So each material that conducts, creates a different pattern in the electricity and magnetism produced.

Viz: That is right. See how smart you are getting! The materials used in guns, explosives, batteries and detonators are identified and

GUN

their patterns are notched up by detector manufacturers to emit certain kinds of warnings. This warning will not be the same for, say, gold!

Raja: Oh that is why they let me pass with my ring on, the last time I went through a detector! That was in an auditorium where the governor was coming for a music programme.

Viz: Yes, more and more places need metal detectors, sadly, because of terrorism. But did you know, some schools in the USA are asking for metal detectors?

Raja: What! Are terrorists planning to attack them?

Seetha Srikanth

Viz: Not really. Some school kids in certain city schools carry guns and knives, making it unsafe for other kids…

'Thank god, it does not happen in my school', thought Raja.

Viz Quiz:

Apart from security, for what is a metal detector used? (Clue: it is a hobby)

You may also email your answers and questions to Viz at askviz@yahoo.co.uk

Case file 14

"Mr. Ramshekar, Anita might regain consciousness in a day or two, or it may even take a month or more. I can't tell you for sure. However, should you need me, just call me," said Dr.Kumar as he left the room.

Ramshekar turned to Venkat who was sobbing uncontrollably.

Anita was a successful entrepreneur and Venkat was her personal secretary. She had been assaulted two days ago. Somebody had struck her with a heavy object when she was working in her room. Venkat was upset because he was away at his native place, attending his brother's wedding, when this incident occurred. He rushed back to Chennai on hearing the news.

Ramshekar went to Anita's house. He carefully observed the room where she had been attacked. He looked at the computer monitor and shifted the mouse slightly. The screen saver gave way to the letters:

,sjrdj

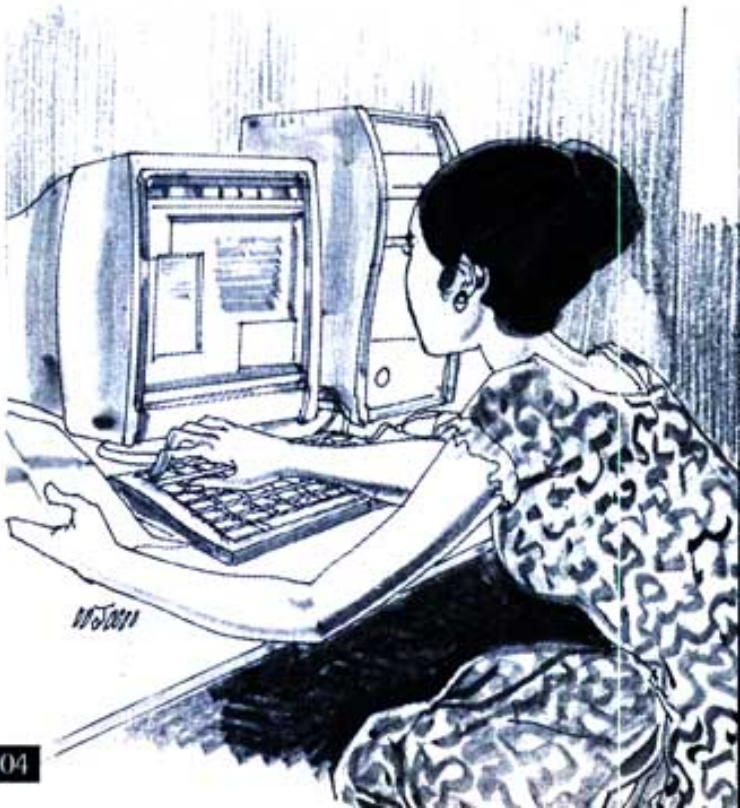
Ramshekar noted down the letters in his notepad. What could these letters mean? Was it some secret code to be decoded?

He left the room, pondering about the mysterious letters. Venkat was waiting for him in the hall.

"Venkat, can you tell me about the persons who were close to your boss? I would like to know about people who could have been her personal or professional adversaries," asked Ramshekar.

Venkat turned red in the face. "Sir, the funny thing is people who were my boss's best friends in the past, have now turned against her," he began. He paused for a while and then continued.

"Jaya, Jasmine, Mahesh, John and my boss were classmates in college. The five of them started a partnership firm. The firm did not do well and they had to dissolve it. Then my boss started a business on her own and it flourished while the other four were not successful



FRIEND OR FOE?

in their ventures. Here I wish to bring to your notice an incident which I can recall. My boss ridiculed her friends. She said, "To run a business successfully, one needs brains and all four of you lack it." They did not like it. In fact they openly stated that they would soon teach her a lesson. But I never expected them to do this."

"Do you frequently visit your boss's house," asked Ramshekar.

"Yes. At least once in two days. She carries part of her official work home."

Ramshekar left to make enquiries with Anita's four 'friends' to find out where they were on the day she was attacked.

While Mahesh admitted that he was in Chennai, Jaya and Jasmine said that they were away at Bangalore at that time. They refused to reveal any details about the trip; where they had stayed, whom they had met etc., as it was a 'business secret.' However, they could produce train tickets to prove that they had travelled from Chennai to Bangalore. John said that he was at Mumbai on the fateful day. He had stayed with his friend Mehta. Ramshekar tried to get in touch with Mehta, but his telephone line (number given by John) was continuously engaged.

Ramshekar fed all the information into his laptop. Suddenly he realised something. He was overjoyed.

Venkat entered his room. Ramshekar said, "I have found the culprit!"

Who was the culprit? How did Ramshekar find out? Did the letters on the monitor give him any clue?

To understand the logic, turn to page 49.

AHOBILAM

Ahobilam, one of the 108 Divya Desams, is the most sacred among all the Narasimha Kshetras in India. It is only at Ahobilam that one finds the nine forms of Lord Narasimha being worshipped. The nine forms of the Lord are said to be installed by rishis

* Ahobila Narasimha

Located in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, between Nandyal and Cuddapah towns, it is part of Seshachala range of hills which is part of the Eastern Ghats. It is said that Lord Adishesha manifested himself in the form of a hill with Thirumala or Seshachala being the head portion, Ahobilam the middle and Srisailam the tail portion.

According to the puranas, two asuras Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashipu ruled this part of the earth committing atrocities and persecuting all gods, rishis and men. Hiranyaksha who hid the earth under the ocean was destroyed by Lord Narayana who took the form of Varaha. Thus the earth was saved by Varaha. Hiranyakashipu vowed to avenge his brother's death. He undertook severe penance that shook all the three worlds. By virtue of his penance he got a boon from Brahma that made him invincible. To circumvent the boon, Lord Narayana took the form of NARASIMHA (half man and half lion). He emerged from a pillar at the behest of his devotee Prahaladha, son of the asura and seated on the doorstep, he put the asura across his lap and tore him to pieces with his nails at dawn.

* Pavana Narasimha

* Varaha Narasimha

The Gods who had gathered to watch the spectacle were so awestruck by this avathar, that they exclaimed:

"Ahoviryam! Ahosauryam, Ahobaahu parakramah
Narasimham Param daivam, Ahobilam Ahobalam."

What strength! What great strength! or Ahobalam. Hence came the name Ahobilam or Ahobalam.

* Jwala Narasimha

* Yogananda Narasimha

* Karanja Narasimha

* Bhargava Narasimha

* Malola Narasimha

* Chatravata Narasimha

Upper Ahobilam is approximately 13km from Lower Ahobilam. There are thick forests on either side of the path going to Upper Ahobilam and it is truly an abode for Narasimha - the lion god! The nava Narasimha kshetra consists of nine shrines.

1. Ahobila Narasimha Shrine
2. Pavana Narasimha Shrine
3. Kroda or Varaha Narashimha Shrine.
4. Yogananda Narasimha Shrine.
5. Jwala Narasimha Shrine.
6. Karanja or Saranga Narasimha Shrine.
7. Bhargava Narashimha Shrine
8. Malola Narasimha Shrine
9. Chatravata Narasimha Shrine.

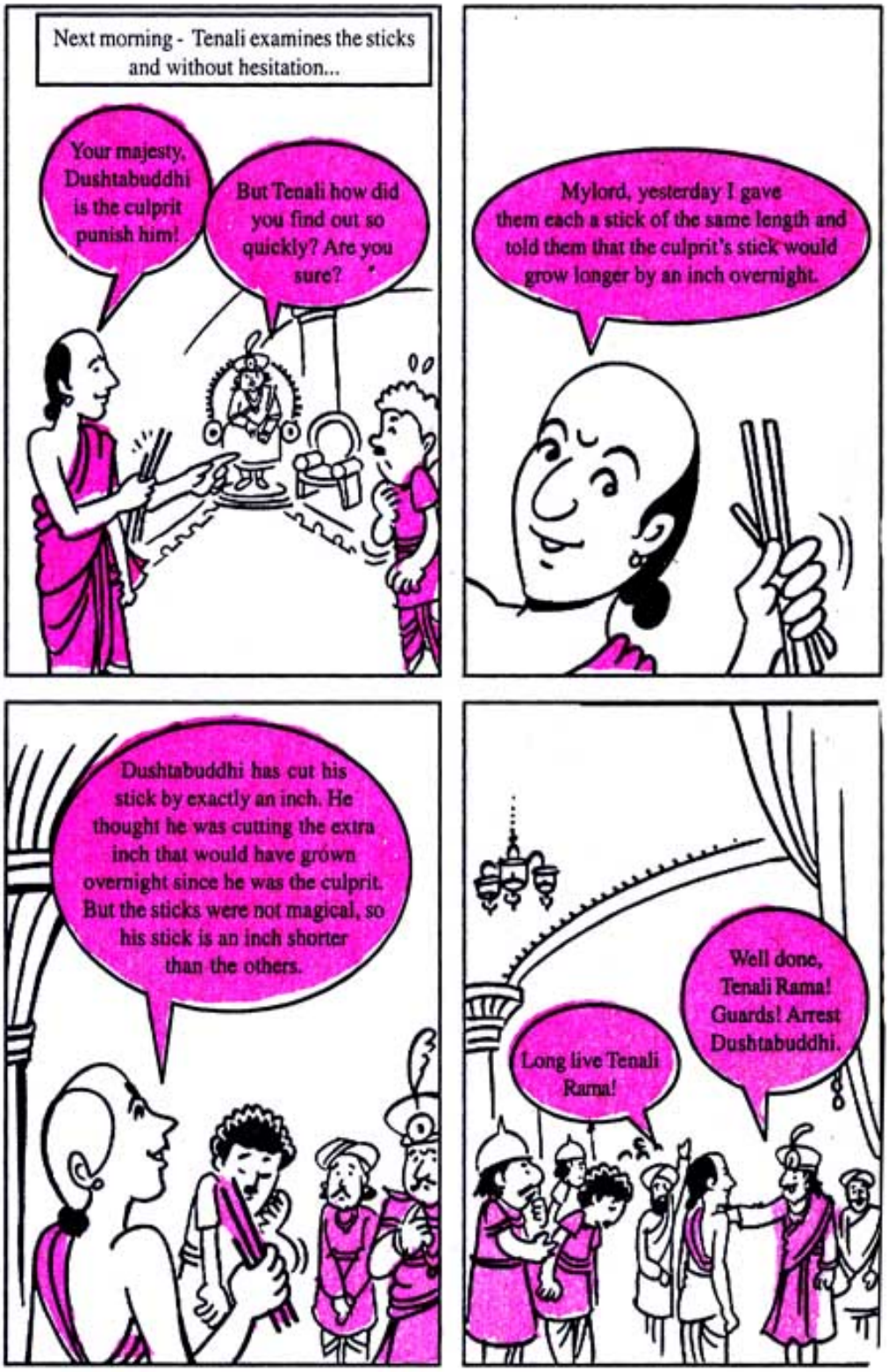
P.S

There is a cleft in the mountain about 8km from Upper Ahobilam. It is still believed that this cleft dividing the mountain into two parts was the place where the Lord first appeared in his fiercest form, namely the Narasimha Avatar. This place is therefore known as 'Ugra Sthambam.'

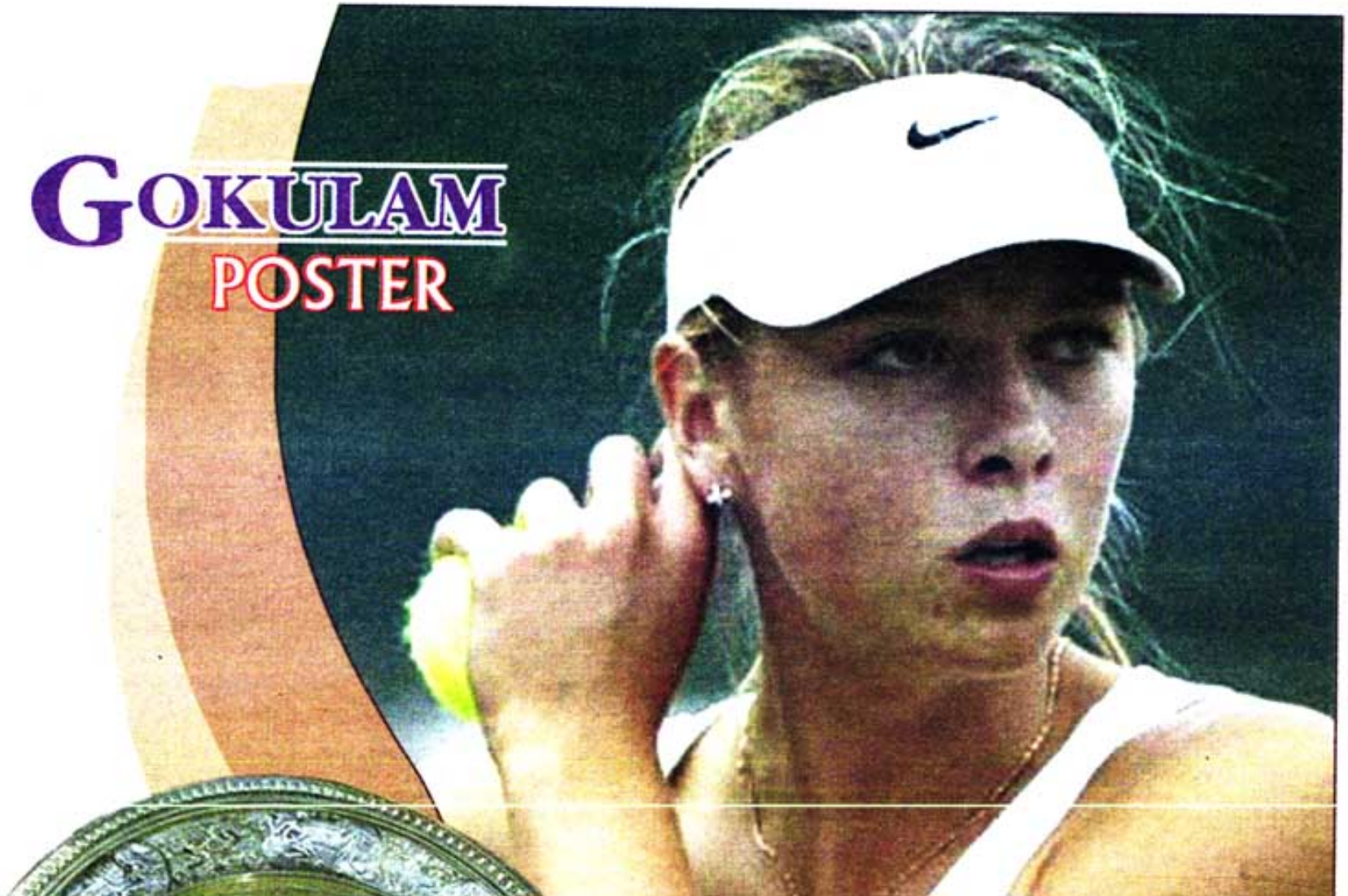
The Nava Narasimhakshetras are under the care of Ahobila Mutt. A visit to Ahobilam is a must for all.

CLEVER TENALI

Story: **P. Sai Deepak**
Illustration: **Mahesh**


Next morning - Tenali examines the sticks and without hesitation...
Your majesty, Dushtabuddhi is the culprit punish him!
But Tenali how did you find out so quickly? Are you sure?
Mylord, yesterday I gave them each a stick of the same length and told them that the culprit's stick would grow longer by an inch overnight.
Dushtabuddhi has cut his stick by exactly an inch. He thought he was cutting the extra inch that would have grown overnight since he was the culprit. But the sticks were not magical, so his stick is an inch shorter than the others.
Long live Tenali Rama!
Well done, Tenali Rama! Guards! Arrest Dushtabuddhi.

GOKULAM
POSTER



SHARAPOVA

-QUEEN OF WIMBLEDON, 2004

Quiz O'mania

PICK THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. 'Young India' (newspaper) was edited by _____
   a. Jawaharlal Nehru
   b. Tilak
   c. Mahatma Gandhi

2. Who was the first Governor General of India?
   a. Rajaji
   b. Lord Mountbatten
   c. Sir Warren Hastings

3. Where did the East India company first set up trade?
   a. Surat
   b. Calcutta
   c. Madras

4. During the Carnatic Wars the French were led by Duplei. who led the British?
   a. Lord Wellesley
   b. Robert clive
   c. Warren Hastings

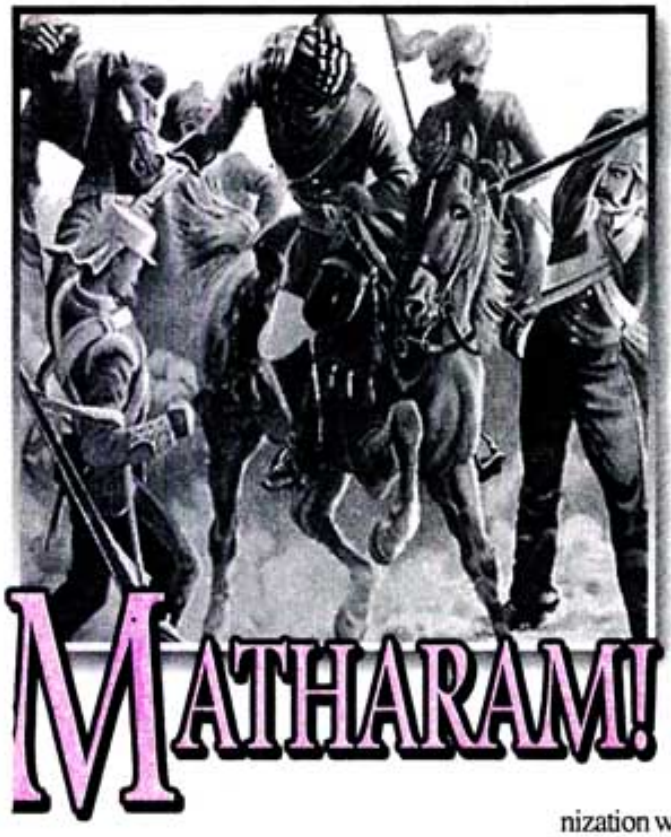
5. Name the battle which marked the foundation of British rule in India?
   a. Battle of Plassey
   b. Battle of Buxar
   c. Battle of Panipat

6. According to this Act introduced by Lord Dalhousie, if a dependant ruler died without a natural heir, the British took over the kingdom. Name it.
   a. Doctrine of Lapse
   b. Subsidiary Alliance
   c. Instrument of Accession

7. Who is known as the Father of Modern India?
   a. Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar
   b. Nehru
   c. Raja Rammohan Roy

8. This young anglo Indian started the Young Bengal Movement which denounced the caste system and encouraged women's education. Name the person.
   a. Annie Besant
   b. Henry Vivian Derozio
   c. Madam Blavatsky

9. Which was the first Indian English newspaper?
   a. Patriot
   b. India Gazette
   c. The Hindu



10. Name the sepoy whose execution sparked off the Revolt of 1857.
a. Mangal Pande
b. Tantia Tope
c. Bhagat Singh

11. When was the Theosophical Society founded?
a. 1894
b. 1825
c. 1886

12. Who is known as the Grand old man of India
a. Dadabhai Naoroji
b. Sardar Patel
c. Gandhiji

13. By whom was the Indian National Congress founded?
a. W.C.Bonnerjea
b. Allan Octavian Hume
c. Motilal Nehru

14. Name the viceroy who partitioned Bengal, but later anulled it?
a. Lord Curzon
b. Lord Cornwallis
c. Lord Dalhousie

15. The partition of Bengal led to the launch of which famous movement?
a. Swadeshi & Boycott
b. Non cooperation
c. Civil Disobedience

16. In 1906, which organization was set up which eventually called for partition?
a. Home rule league
b. Muslim league
c. Akali Dal

17. The massacre of Jallianwala Bagh was ordered by which General?
a. Gen.Dyer
b. Gen Myers
c. Gen. O'dawyer

ASSESS YOUR RATING:

13-17 correct answers - Excellent
10 - 12 correct answers - Good
6 - 9 correct answers - Fair
Below 5 - Sigh!

Answers:
1.c 2.c 3.a 4.b 5.a 6.a 7.c 8.b 9.b 10.a 11.c
12.a 13.b 14.a 15.a 16.b 17.a

Story

A TWIN IN NEED

Twelve year olds, Kavitha and Savitha were indentical twins. Kavitha was better than Savitha in many respects. Kavitha was an excellent sports person; a volleyball champion. Nobody gave Savitha a chance to prove herself, because they all compared her with Kavitha and thought she was 'good for nothing' Kavitha thought so too. But Savitha was kind hearted and could perform well too.

Kavitha was the captain of the Junior Girls Volleyball team at St.Lawrence. She was confident about leading her team to victory in the finals of the championships. The team practised hard for the finals to be played on Saturday. But alas! Kavitha broke her leg during practice on Friday evening.

"I'm afraid she cannot play tomorrow. She will be laid up for at least a month" said the doctor. Kavitha was shattered. She cried and cried, and at last fell asleep in the early hours of the morning.

She was so tired that she over-slept and when she woke up it was almost noon. 'Oh, my gosh! The match must have ended. We would have lost by now!' she mumbled to herself. Just then she caught sight of something on the table. She sat up and had a closer look at it. What a surprise! She couldn't believe her eyes. On the bedside table stood the Volleyball Championship Trophy!

'How did it get here?' She wondered.

"Surprised, aren't you?" smiled Savitha.

"Yes... but... how...?" asked Kavitha.

"I'll tell you, but promise, you won't tell anybody?" began Savitha. "I went to the stadium this morning in your uniform. Everybody thought I was you. We played and won the match. Simple. Except Mom and Dad no one knows the truth."

"I am so sorry Savitha. I never realised you could play so well. Thanks so much. You must play regularly for my team. I am gonna change the proverb to 'A twin in need, is a twin indeed!' exclaimed a delighted Kavitha.

- Mirdul Mohan,
Std VIII, Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Kannur, Kerala

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES (2003-'04)

The special prize winner for maximum number of participation certificates for the year ended June, 2004, will be announced in the September, 2004, issue of GOKULAM

ANSWERS TO QUIZ 'O MANIA JULY 2004

Babur
1483-1530

Humanyun
1508-1556

Akbar
1542-1605

Jahangir
1569-1627

Shahjahan
1592-1666

Aurangazeb
1618-1707

1. 1526
2. Babur
3. Ibrahim Lodi
4. Panipat
5. Sher Shah
6. 1540
7. Akhar
8. Rajputana (Amber)
9. Fatehpur Sikri
10. 1571
11. Abul Fazl
12. Akbar Nama
13. nine
14. Birbal
15. Tansen
16. Jehangir
17. Nur Jehan
18. Jehangir
19. Nur Jehan
20. Khurram
21. Taj Mahal
22. Mumtaz Mahal.
23. Dara Shikoh
24. Shah Shuja
25. Murad
26. Auranzeb
27. Aurangzeb
28. Bijapur
29. Golconda
30. Maratha
31. Chatrapati
32. Shivaji
33. Aurangabad
34. 1707
35. Nadir Shah
36. Peacock Throne
37. East
38. India.

CONGRATULATIONS!

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS ARE:

1. Archana, B.
Std XII, PSBBSS,
Chennai

2. Coneenika Chaudhari,
Std VIII, Meerut Public School,
Meerut.

CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Dear Children,

Here's an opportunity for your parents. Get them to contribute to the **'Parents' Page'**. Remember! These two pages are exclusive to parents of Gokulam Readers.

As for our young readers, you may cover a special event taking place in your school. Get your coverage certified by your school principal or class teacher and mail it to **'School Slot'**.

Write to : Gokulam, 47-NP,
Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097

THE FLYING SIKH

He clocked a world record 45.8 seconds in one of the 400m preliminaries in France, but finished fourth in the 1960 Rome Olympics. The favourite for gold, had missed the bronze medal by a whisker of 0.1 second. This athlete, who won 77 out of the 80 races he ran, had missed an Olympic medal! In fact, this man does not display a single medal at home today, since he has donated them all to a museum. This great athlete is none other than the 'Flying Sikh', Milkha Singh!

Milkha Singh, a refugee from West Pakistan, lost his parents in the partition massacres of 1947. He was rejected by the army thrice, before he joined it in 1952 on a wage of Rs.10/-. That is when he got a chance to participate in his first ever race in an athletic meet!

Motivated by his coach, Havildar Gurudev Singh and with rigorous practice, and determination he managed to reach the top. He used to run on the hills, the sands of the Yamuna river and even race the local metre gauge train! He often vomited blood and collapsed due to exhaustion- so intense was his training.

It is this training that later earned him the sobriquet 'Flying Sikh' in 1962, three years before the Indo-Pak war. He was christened by President Ayub Khan, when he defeated Asia's most celebrated athlete, Abdul Khaliq of Pakistan, in the 200m race at the Indo Pak duel meet at Lahore. It is said that he did not run the race but flew to the finishing post! This man who was so dejected at his defeat in the Rome Olympics, and had decided to give up athletics, had bounced back to fame!

During his golden period 1958 – 1960, he had set several records in 200m and 400m and had won two gold medals at the Tokyo Asian Games, a gold at the Commonwealth Games and the Best Athlete Helms Trophy, 1959.

From a lowly paid army recruit, he went on to become Director (Sports) in the Punjab government. He is also a recipient of the Padma Shri Award. More importantly he is remembered and recognized by millions of people around the world.

Not only is he unique in the sports arena, but also in his personal life. He has now adopted the son of a Kargil martyr and is bringing him up. "We owe it to those who have died for the country's honour", says this great man who feels disappointed that our cricketing heroes are not doing as much for the country.

Decades after he hung up his spikes and even though in his case, there was many a slip between the cup and the lip, the Flying Sikh stands taller than many sporting legends of this world!

- Arjun Kannan, Chennai.

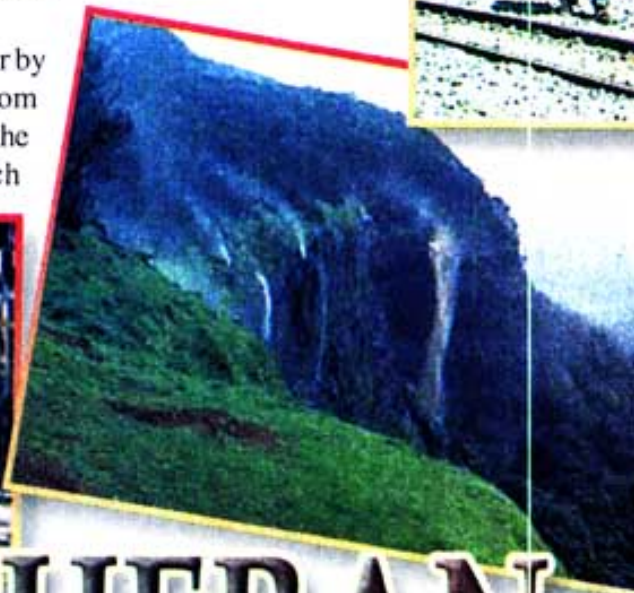
Travel

MATHERAN -THE WOODED HILL TOP!

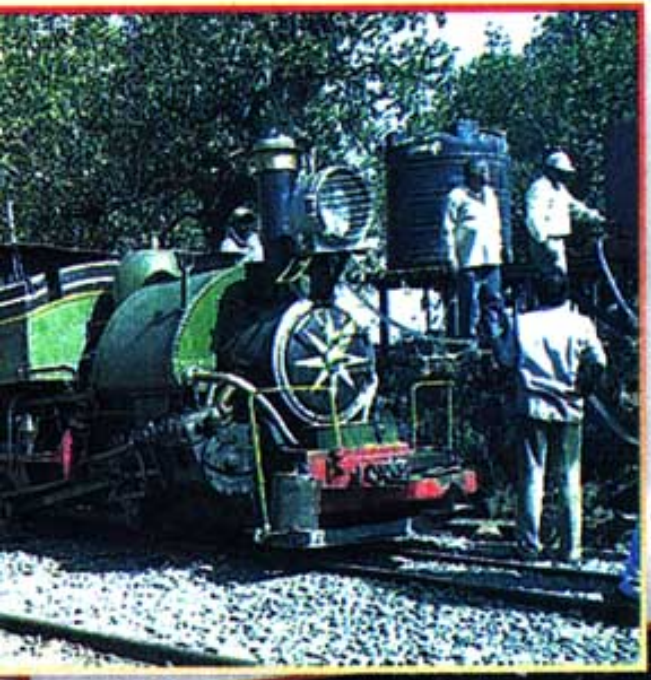
Matheran which means 'forest atop a hill' is a picturesque hill station in Maharashtra. It is located about one hundred and seventy kilometers from Mumbai and a hundred and twenty kilometers from Pune, at an altitude of eight hundred metres (2,636ft) above sea level. Since it is very close to Mumbai and Pune a lot of tourists go to Matheran even for the weekend.

One can reach Matheran either by road or rail. Driving down from Mumbai or Pune, one should take the turn towards Karjat and reach Dastoori Naka on the road called Byke Chowki No.1. Vehicles are not allowed beyond this point. In fact, Matheran is one of the few retreats where motorised vehicles are not allowed to pollute the environment.

Neral is two hours by train from Mumbai. The toy train service to Matheran is from Neral. It is an exciting two hour journey up the twelve kilometer route full of twists and turns (about a hundred and twenty five turns) and several tunnels, one of them being the 'One Kiss Tunnel'. This railway line was constructed by the British in 1907.



Matheran is famed for its scenic beauty and has as many as 38 interesting 'points'. From Panorama Point (Sunrise point) one



can see the sunrise giving a glow to the clouds. Down below flows the Ulhas river. The mini train circles Panorama Point. On a clear night, one can see the lights of Mumbai from Monkey, Porcupine or Heart Point. Other important spots are Khandala, Madhavji, Sunset and Garbut points and Charlotte lake. The Matheran Municipality has put up sign boards to guide tourists.

The best way to explore Matheran is on foot. However, for those who cannot trek long distances, horses and non motorised rickshaws (hand carts) are available. As in most tourist spots, horse owners and rickshaw pullers tend to fleece tourists.

Matheran is famous for its pure honey, chikki and fudge- delicacies which one should not miss.

So make a trip to Matheran. Enjoy its beauty and serenity.

- Vineet D. Kamat, Mumbai

CASE FILE-14

FRIEND OR FOE?

LOGIC BEHIND THE CASE ON PAGES 34,35

Just before she lost consciousness, Anita had tried to type the name of her assailant, 'mahesh.' However, by mistake, she had placed her fingers one key to the right of the actual key. Hence instead of placing the left little finger on the key 'a', she had placed it on 's', the next key on the right. So instead of mahesh ',sjrdj' had appeared on the screen.

Experience

BEWARE OF CONMEN!

Last week, I went to the dentist with my father. When we came out of the clinic it was raining heavily. Since we did not have an umbrella, we waited for a taxi.

Soon a well dressed old gentleman came and offered to sell his silken umbrella to us for thirty rupees. He told us that as he had left his purse behind at home, he needed only the taxi fare of thirty rupees to get back home. My father took his umbrella and paid him the money.

We became suspicious when he walked briskly into a pub instead of taking a taxi. We followed him in and saw him order a glassful of whisky and gulp it down. He then picked up someone's umbrella quite casually on his way out of the pub. He played the same trick of selling it to another person.

Cases of tricksters is on the rise. Beware of conmen. Help the police to nab them.

- T. Gayathri, Std.VIII,
S.T.G. Jain Vidyalaya,
Chennai

ENCOUNTER WITH A STRANGER

I live in Roing, a little town in the eastern end of Arunachal Pradesh. One day

BROTHER BAITING

"Mummy, Munna broke my Batman toy!" I screamed.

"Why do you always complain? After all he is your younger brother, isn't he?" shouted mummy. Whenever I complained to mummy about Munna she always quietened me.

Next day, I was at home playing with my video game. Just then Munna came and said, "Chanju Vai, please give me the video game."

"No," I said angrily. Munna howled. Mummy came and ordered me to give the video game to him and I had to part with it.

After sometime, Munna returned the game

during my vacation, there was no one at home. My father, mother and my younger sister had all gone to my aunt's house. It was evening. I was alone at home and watching television when suddenly someone called my father's name from outside. I was startled. 'What if he's a thief?' I slowly came to the door and peeped outside and saw a spectacled man aged about fifty.

'May be he knows that I am alone at home. Perhaps he has come to rob our house!'

I waited silently. He knocked again. Without opening the door, I called rudely to the man, "Who are you?" He replied softly, "I am your father's friend. Where is he?" I shouted, "My father is not at home. Please go back!"

"Give me a glass of water, my child" said the man again. Then I opened the door and invited the man to come in. He asked me about my father, mother and about my sister. I had never met him before. So I was very surprised that he knew about my family members very well. When I came to know that he was one of father's friends, I felt very ashamed of myself. I had spoken very rudely to him. "Uncle, I'm sorry", I said. "Its okay, my dear!" he replied. "Yes, you should always be cautious when strangers come home. Of course you need not shout at them!"

- Jyotismita Koch,
Std IX, Intaya Public School,
Roing, Arunachal Pradesh

to me. I found that it was not working. I was furious and spanked Munna. Munna started crying. I felt guilty.

I remembered the first day mummy brought baby Munna from the hospital. I had been so happy. Why did I start hating him? I should not have hit him.

I went to Munna and said, "Munna, my dear, I am so sorry. Here, take this bar of chocolate." Munna was delighted. So was I. I realized that my brother Munna was worth more than all the toys in the world!

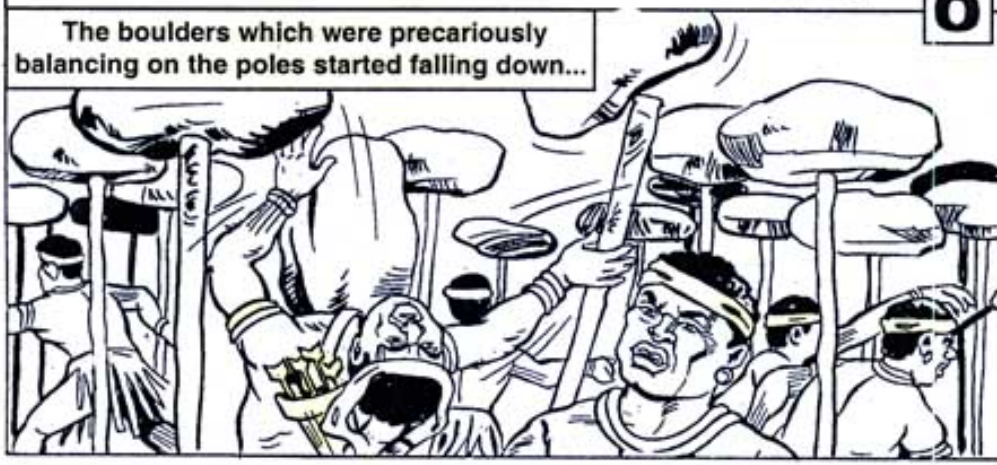
- Saurav Das, Age 11,
St.Anne's Convent,
Baripada, Orissa

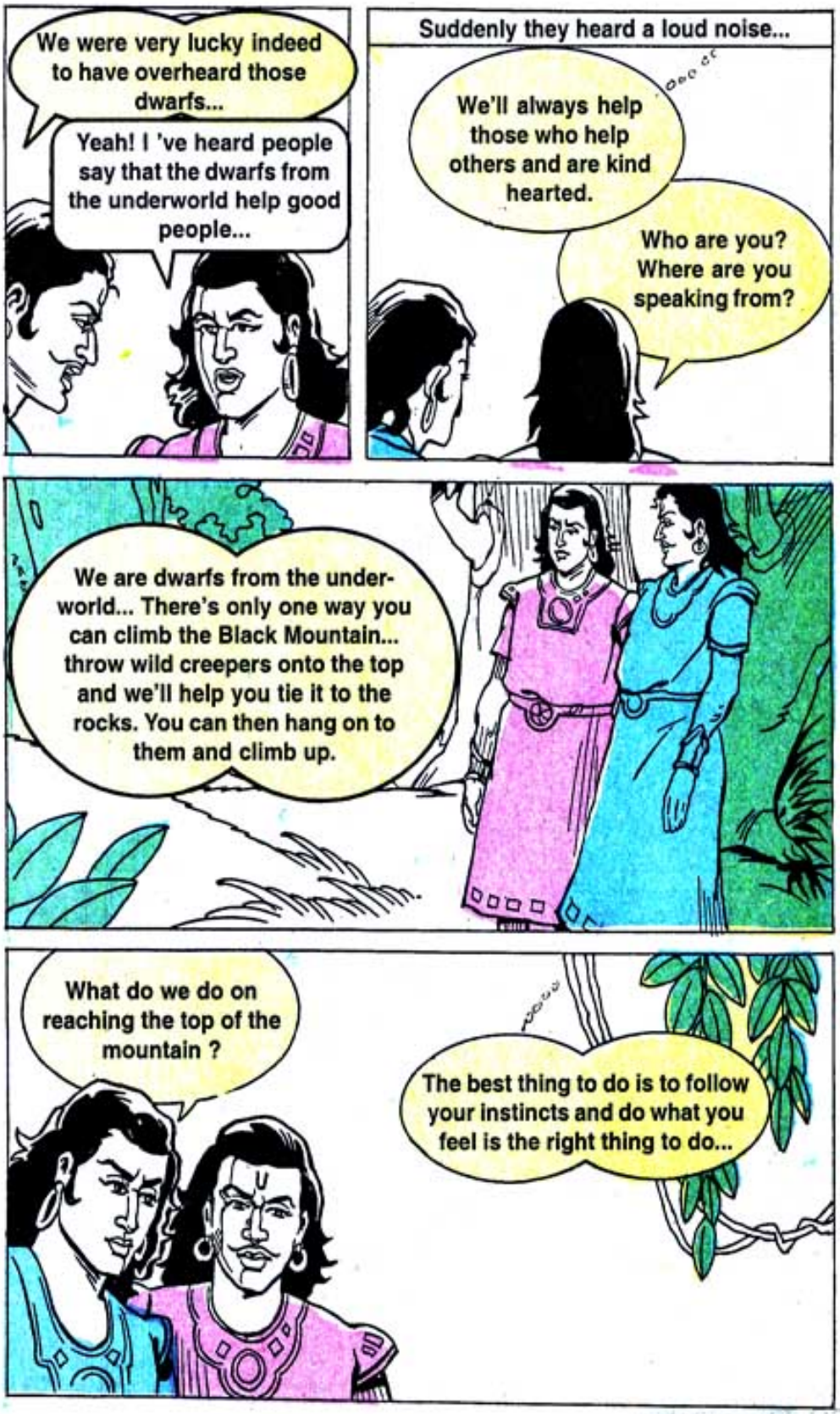
THE WHITE FLOWER ADVENTURE

Script : Mohan .C

Art: C.J.Roy

6

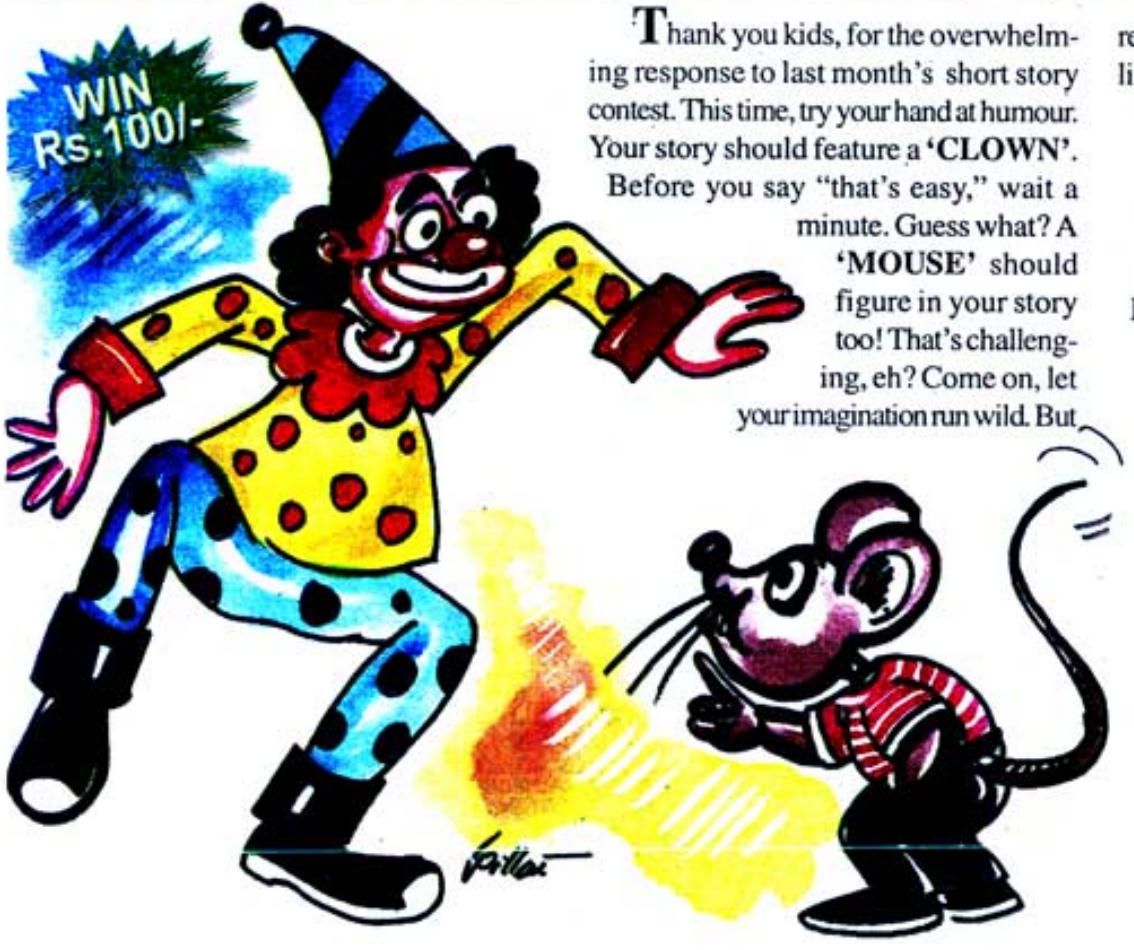



We were very lucky indeed to have overheard those dwarfs...
Yeah! I 've heard people say that the dwarfs from the underworld help good people...
Suddenly they heard a loud noise...
We'll always help those who help others and are kind hearted.
Who are you? Where are you speaking from?
We are dwarfs from the underworld... There's only one way you can climb the Black Mountain... throw wild creepers onto the top and we'll help you tie it to the rocks. You can then hang on to them and climb up.
What do we do on reaching the top of the mountain ?
The best thing to do is to follow your instincts and do what you feel is the right thing to do...

Acting on the dwarfs' advice, they started climbing the Black Mountain with the help of wild creepers tied to rocks.
Ah! At last we've conquered the Black Mountain!
My god! Now we are on the summit... Would you feel giddy if you look downwards...?
On top of the mountain...
See! that's the tree on which the white flowers blossom. All around the tree is marshy land. How can we get to the tree?

Suddenly they saw a strange sight...
Look!... Why isn't that huge bird sinking into the marshy soil?
This bird seems to be stepping on firm ground only. If we follow its footsteps we can reach the tree safely.
At last the white flowers are within our reach.
Let's pluck the flowers with prayers on our lips, and collect them in a bag...
(To be continued)

A REALLY 'SHORT' STORY CONTEST-2



Thank you kids, for the overwhelming response to last month's short story contest. This time, try your hand at humour. Your story should feature a **'CLOWN'**. Before you say "that's easy," wait a minute. Guess what? A **'MOUSE'** should figure in your story too! That's challenging, eh? Come on, let your imagination run wild. But remember your story must be original and limited to 350 words.

LAST DATE : 16.08.04

Rush in your entries to:
Gokulam
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai- 600 097.

- The best entry will receive a prize of Rs.100/-
- Strictly for school going children
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning story will appear in the October 2004 issue of Gokulam
- Next short story contest announcement September 2004
- Mention 'Short Story Contest' on the envelope.
- Editor's decision is final.

GRIN AND BEAR IT!

Ramu: Do you know why cows have bells around their necks?

Shamu: No, why?

Ramu: Because their horns don't work!

- Ashok, Vishakapatnam.

Customer: I like the material and design on this shirt. But the colour is too dark.

Sales lady: Don't worry about that. After one wash you will like the colour!

- Saumya Bhargava, Std VIII, Jindal Modern School, Hisar, Haryana.

Judge: Why did you steal the gold chain from the shop?

Thief: The board outside read **"Don't miss this golden opportunity."**

- R.Deepa, Std VII, Holy Cross A.I.Hr.S.School, Tuticorin

Teacher: Why are you late?

Mini: Because the sign down the road says **'GO SLOW - SCHOOL AHEAD.'**

- Chitra S.Mudaliar, Std-VII, Birla School, Kalyan

POT POURRI

The boy with a freckled face and red hair
To him spiders are a nightmare
Reliable, lovable but unfortunately poor
How his mind works none is sure.

Became a prefect in his fifth year
Also the Gryffindor goal keeper
But then, Oh Dear!
He'd lose his mind when the Slytherins do jeer.

- Reyomi Roy
Std IX, RECS-1,
Mumbai

RELIABLE RON!

My exams are here
And I am full of fear
My tensions grow bigger
As the time available is smaller.

I play all the year round
Or keep loitering around
But when the exams come
My nerves become numb

So, do study throughout the year
And you won't have exam fear.

- D.Indira
C.G.Delhi Public School,
Korba

SAVE TREES

If you find a little seed,
Black, brown or red,
Just dig the soil, three inches deep,
And plant the little seed.

If you find a little sapling
Brown, green or yellow
Just surround it with thorny bushes
And water it also.

If you find a tree being cut
Bark, branch or root,
Embrace it with your arms
And protect its shoots.

- Devendra Dave
Nallasopara (W)
Thane

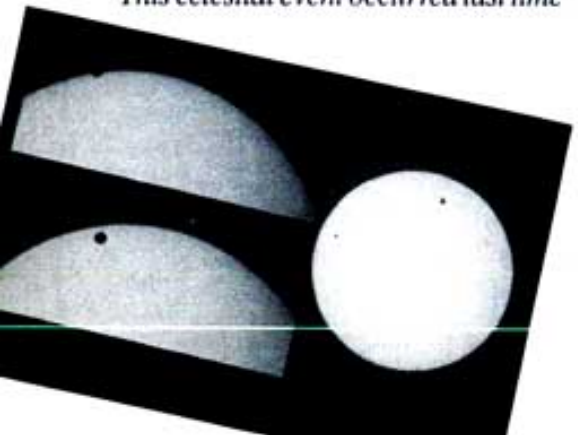
EXAM FEAR

Astronomy

A GRAND CELESTIAL EVENT!

*A **Grand Celestial Event** occurred on June 8, '04. The tiny planet Venus passed across the face of the sun.The event was similar to a solar eclipse, but since Venus is very small it did not eclipse the sun. Instead it appeared as a tiny black dot moving from the sun's South Eastern edge to the South West. This event was studied closely by astronomers to locate new planets closer in size to the earth by studying the dimming of sun light.*

This celestial event occurred last time in 1882.Those who missed it this year can view it in 2012. Don't miss it because it will be the last time in this century.



Here are some facts on the Solar System.

1. **Venus** is the hottest planet in the Solar System. While Mercury is closer to the sun, Venus is hotter because it has a lot of Carbon di - oxide which traps heat and retains it. Life cannot exist on Venus.

2. **Mars** is the only planet other than Earth which may have, at sometime, been the home of living creatures.

3. **Olympus Hons** is the largest Mountain in the Solar System and is located in Mars. (Height - 78,000ft.)

4. Astronomers are of the opinion that there existed a planet between Mercury and the Sun. They gave it a name **'Vulcan'**.

5. **Saturn** is the only planet with a density less than that of water.

6. **Triton**, the largest satellite of Neptune is the coldest member of the Solar System (-390°F)

7. **The Moon** is slowly moving away from the Earth at the rate of about 2 inches per century!

8. Scientists believe that as the **Sun** gets older and larger it will eat up the planets and then become so large that it will explode. Relax! That will not happen for another 5000 million years!

Compiled by :
S. Sunita,
Std X, K.V. Secundrabad
& P.M.Supraja, Std VIII,
St. Dominic's A.I. H.S.S.
Chennai

Story

THE STRANGE NOISE

A village merchant went to a town to sell his goods. He wanted to return home in the evening after selling his goods. However he was unable to do so, since it started raining heavily. He went to the ashram of a sanyasi and asked him if he could spend the night there. The kind sanyasi agreed.

Around midnight, the merchant suddenly heard some strange noises. In the morning, he asked the sanyasi about it. The sanyasi said, "I am sorry. I cannot tell you anything. It is a secret and can be told only to sanyasis." The merchant thanked the sanyasi for the stay and left for his village.

After a month he again visited the town to sell his goods. This time too he could not get back to his village due to heavy rain. He again went to the sanyasi's ashram and requested him for a room to stay. The sanyasi showed him his room.

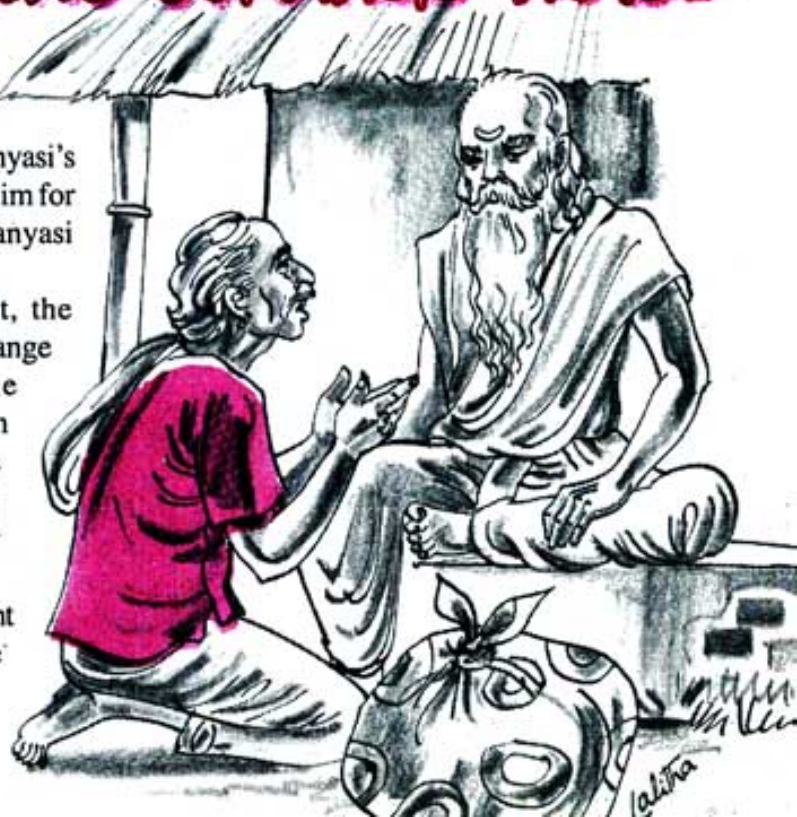
Again at midnight, the merchant heard the strange noises. When he questioned the sanyasi in the morning, he was again told that the secret could be revealed only to a sanyasi.

This time the merchant did not want to leave without finding out the truth about the noises.

He distributed all his money amongst the poor and then said to the sanyasi. "I want to become a sanyasi." The sanyasi agreed and performed some rituals and also gave him some clothes befitting a sanyasi.

The merchant turned sanyasi then asked the sanyasi about the noises. This time the sanyasi pointed to a room and asked the merchant to go there and find out for himself.

The merchant opened the door and



found a silver door there. He opened that and found a golden door! Upon opening that door he was shocked to see...

Sorry, dear readers. I cannot tell you what he saw. You are all not sanyasis and the secret cannot be revealed to you. Ha... ha... ha...

- Shweta Chadchan, Std.IX,
C.P.E.M. School,
Gulbarga, Karnataka

Budding Chef

LIP SMACKING HALWA!

Jhat Pat Halwa

Ingredients:

1. Milk - 1 litre
2. Sugar - 100gms
3. Fresh curd - 2 Tbsp
4. Saffron - 2 pinches
5. Cardamom powdered - 4 pods
6. Chopped pistas, almonds - for garnishing.

Method:

Add sugar and curd to the milk and boil in a broad vessel. Continue heating and stirring the mixture until it thickens. Pour a little warm milk over the saffron and rub until saffron dissolves, and pour it into the thickened mixture. Sprinkle cardamom and garnish with nuts. Serve hot.

- M. Trishna Vaishali
SBOA (M) School, Chennai

Banana Shake

Banana - 1 (big)
Dates - 4 (sliced)
Milk - 200ml (1glassful)

Method:

Cut banana into pieces. Add a little milk and the dates and blend in a blender. Add the remaining milk. Serve chilled.

- Shreya H. Shetty,
Std- VII, S.V.P. Vidyalaya,
Mumbai

Gift Gokulam to your friends

Gift a one-year subscription.

Gift a two-year subscription.

Return Gift from Gokulam

Your existing subscription extended by another three months. (offer valid until October 15, 2004)

Get a book 'Fat is Beautiful and other Jayabalan Stories' - worth Rs.39.50 free! (until stocks last)

FILL IN THE DETAILS AND SEND IT TO US NOW!

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Name : _____

Address : _____

_____

_____

_____

Myself :

Name : _____

Address : _____

_____

_____

Subscription No : _____

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The Circulation Manager
GOKULAM (English), 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097

Dear Sir,

I hereby introduce Gokulam to my friend _____ _____. I have enclosed Rs.96/- / Rs.192/- (by DD / MO / Cheque*) towards an annual / two-year subscription in his / her name. Kindly extend my subscription period by another three months / send me the book, as a gift to me from you.

Regards,

★ Add Rs.20/- for outstation cheques
★ DD/cheques favouring 'Gokulam'

(Signature)

Creative Corner

ROCKING BIRDS!

Materials required

1. Stiff (thick) paper
2. Paper
3. Sketch pens
4. Fevicol
5. Scissors

Cut out a paper circle from the thick paper. Fold the circle to form two semi circles. The base of your rocking picture is ready. Draw and cut out two birds. Colour them with sketch pens. Stick the birds on the outer side of the folded semi circle. When you press one end of the rocking picture, the picture will rock!

- Rijumone Chouduri
Std VII, Meerut public school, Meerut

Fiesta Head-dress

Materials required

1. Scissors, glue, stapler 2. Crayons 3. Ribbons 4. Brown paper 5. Feathers 6. Buttons 7. Fabric scraps 8. Glitter

Method:

1. Cut 2 inverted 'U' shapes out of brown paper. Make sure that when the bottoms are stapled together, the pieces are wide enough to cover your head.
2. Draw designs on the paper with crayons (straight, zigzag, dotted, thin or thick lines) using your creativity.
3. Embellish it by gluing on buttons, fabric scraps, glitter, feathers etc. Let dry.
4. Staple the two 'U' shaped paper together at the bottom and staple on ribbons.

Your new Fiesta Headdress is ready.

- B.N. Anuradha,
Std VI, Carmel School, Bangalore

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE AND RIDDLES :

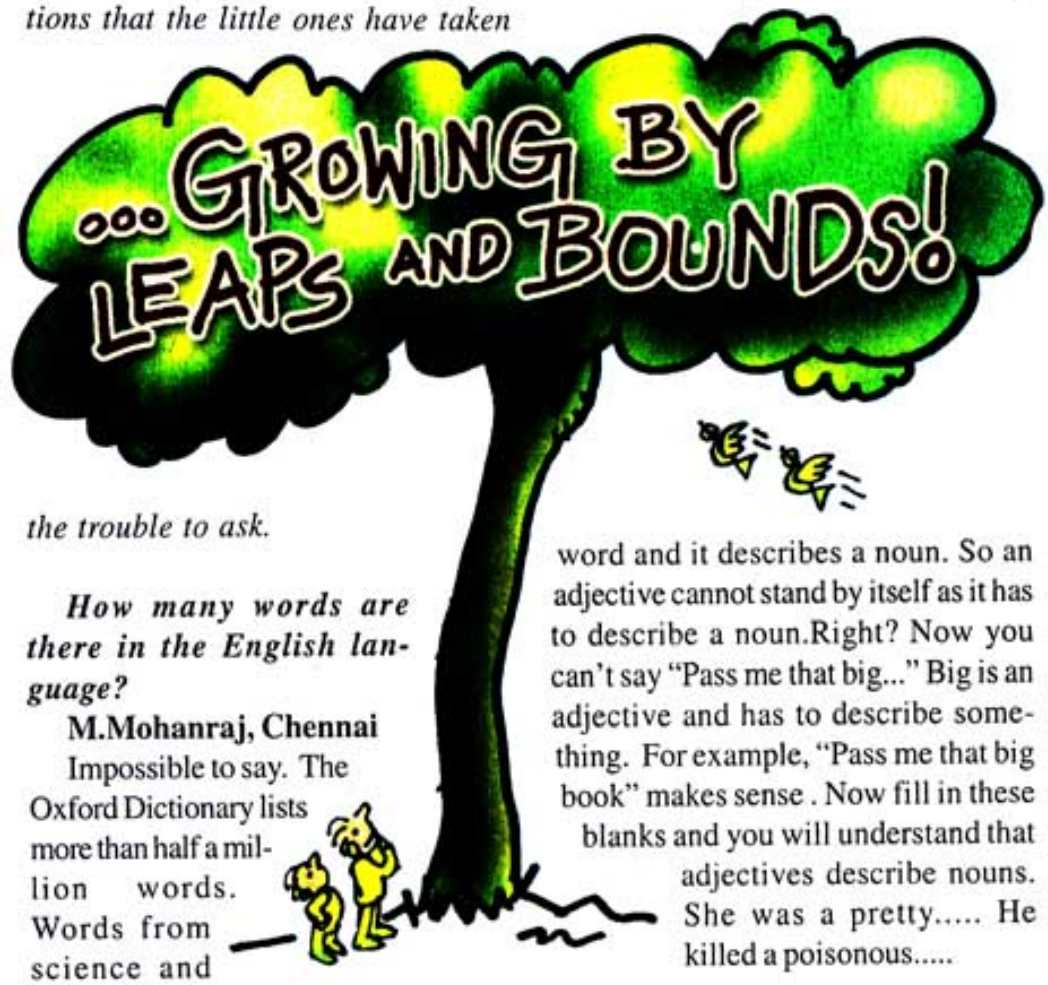
I
1. Konark 2. Manipur 3. Manali 4. Nagpur 5. Mathura 6. Cochin 7. Indore

III
i. it's tail ii. 100 coins.
a.Q (queue) b. V (we) c. Japan

Improve your English

Dear Readers,

After going through your questions, I find that readers of Gokulam are from a mixed age group. Some of you may find the questions basic and a little simple. But I would like to answer the questions that the little ones have taken the trouble to ask.



How many words are there in the English language?

M.Mohanraj, Chennai

Impossible to say. The Oxford Dictionary lists more than half a million words. Words from science and technology are being added every day to the language. All languages do grow but English is growing by leaps and bounds because it is a world wide language.

What is an adjective?

B. Sai Kumar, Hyderabad

You must be a very young reader of Gokulam. An adjective is a describing word and it describes a noun. So an adjective cannot stand by itself as it has to describe a noun.Right? Now you can't say "Pass me that big..." Big is an adjective and has to describe something. For example, "Pass me that big book" makes sense . Now fill in these blanks and you will understand that adjectives describe nouns. She was a pretty..... He killed a poisonous.....

***

When do you omit an article?

R. Kanimozhi, Gingee.

There are two types of articles-definite and indefinite The indefinite article

Radha Padmanabhan

'a' or 'an' does not speak of a particular person or thing, whereas the definite article 'the' does. For example 'She saw a man' and 'she saw the man' mean different things, don't they? Articles are not used when nouns represent a whole class of things or materials. (eg)Man is cruel. Gold is costly. Coconuts grow in Kerala etc. Article is omited for proper nouns too.(eg)Kerala is called god's own country.

***

What does polydactyl mean? Give its opposite.

R. Arvindh, Chennai

Poly means 'many' and 'mono' means single and dactyl means a finger. Polydactyl is a zoological term meaning having more than the normal number of fingers or toes. Monodactyl means having one finger or toe.

***

The word 'are' is in the plural. Then why do we say "How are you?"

Bharath kumar,Thokkulam,T.N.

A good question, Bharath. In Old English 'thou', 'thee', 'thine' and 'they' were used as singular and 'ye' 'you' etc were used for the plural. Thou is now used in addressing god or Christ. Thou was gradually replaced by 'you' and since 'you' was once used in the plural, the usage of 'you' with a plural verb 'are' continues although the subject is in the singular!

***

What is meant by passive voice?

B. Birundha, Gingee.

Verbs are used in the active and passive voice. Now look at these two sentences:-

Someone killed a snake (active voice)

A snake was killed by someone (passive voice)

In the first sentence the subject 'someone does something to the object, 'the snake'. In the second sentence something is done to the subject.

The passive voice is used when importance is given to what has been done to the subject. We are interested in knowing that a snake was killed and not really who killed it

***

Are there names, places and animals starting with the letters U, W, X, Y and Z?

G. Aruna, Vellore

Of course there are. Are you old enough to look up a dictionary? Ask your parents to buy you a children's dictionary. Some names that come to my mind are:-

U Upendra, Ursula and Utah
W William and Wallaby
X Xray and Xerox
Y Yew tree and yak
Z zebra and Zulu.

***

Convert the phrase "I met a lady with a blue umbrella" into a clause.

M.S. Sarath, Gingee.

Let me tell you a little bit about phrases and clauses. A phrase is a group of words that does not have a verb like:-

1. She wore a saree **of pure silk and gold.**(adj phrase describing saree)

2.The little boy ran **with great** speed.(how..adv clause describing ran)

3.Everything was imported **during the British rule.** (when... adv. clause of time)

4.Mangoes are now available **in all the shops.**(where?.. adv clause of place)

A clause is a group of words that has a verb but cannot stand by itself and make sense.

So the answer to your question would be ... I met a lady who had a blue umbrella. 'Who had a blue umbrella' is a clause.It has a verb alright but by itself it does not make sense.

***

How do you pronounce 'rendez-vous?

R.Aravindh, Chennai

"Rendezvous is of French origin and means an appointed place of meeting. It is pronounced 'rawn dei voo.'

***

What is meant by D Day?

R. A Adtiiraj, Chennai

D Day is associated now with that terrible day in June 1944 -when Britain and the allied forces landed on the shores of Normandy in France in the war against Germany. The D does not stand for 'deliverance' or 'dooms day'. It is really a military term, title "D' standing for an unnamed date on which a particular military operation was to begin. Any military operation can have a D Day However, due to the general association of the term with that horrific day in June 1944 it is doubtful if any other military operation will be known as D Day.

Story

QUIT BEING A QUITTER

The class teacher made an announcement about the inter - school painting contest to be held at St. Agnes Convent.

"Aren't you participating?" asked Rani. "Painting is your favourite hobby, I understand?"

"Me?" Alice Shrugged, "I hate painting."

Alice recalled the bitter incident at last years's contest conducted in their school auditorium. Two of her classmates, Vani and Sheetal sat behind her. While Alice was painting, she heard their whispers.

"Look at Alice's painting. How terrible..."

"The judges won't even give it a second glance."

Alice was deeply hurt when she heard their comments. When Alice submitted her painting, the teacher who collected it took one look at it and then placed it at the bottom of the pile.

"My god! Even a three year old would have done a better job!" she commented. Students who stood beside her, to give in their paintings laughed aloud. An embarrassed Alice rushed out of the auditorium.

'Never again will I touch a paint brush' she vowed to herself.

The sound of the bell brought her back from her bitter thoughts. She raced out of school to attend her piano class. Alice loved the instrument. After much persuasion her mother had enrolled her in a piano class. Alice eagerly placed her fingers on the piano keys.

"Oh, no! That's the wrong key," yelled her piano teacher. "Even after six classes, I'm surprised how you can't get your notes right. May be you'll learn to play only when you are sixty years old!" Alice was in tears. She decided to discontinue her piano classes.

That evening they were attending 'Music Fiesta', a big musical event featuring select singers from all over the state. Her cousin Jennifer was one of them. Jennifer held the audience spell bound with her music. She received a standing ova-

tion from the audience. Alice went backstage to congratulate her.

Jennifer thanked her and said, "I wish my teacher had been here today. When I was learning, I never could get the right pitch. She thought I was hopeless. Others in my class nick named me the 'Braying nightingale!' "

"How come you continued learning? I would have instantly given up", said Alice.

"No, never! Everyone has to learn from mistakes. With practice and hard work you can master anything. Whenever my teacher said I would never be a good singer, I became more determined to prove her wrong. I had faith in myself and I knew I could sing and sing well too!"

Alice was stunned. She had loved painting. Just because her classmates and teacher had jeered at her, she had given it up. She decided she would not give up her piano classes. 'I'll work hard and one day I shall be a great performer like Jennifer. I won't take my teacher's comments to heart', she decided. She might even take up painting once more and participate in the contest. She had quit being a quitter!

- R. Anjoo Sharon
Coimbatore

Journalism- PEN MIGHTIER THAN SWORD!

We are living in a global village where people need information on what's happening around them. Somebody has to take up the task of providing this information....why not you?

Journalism deals with the gathering and dissemination of information to millions of people all over the world. Journalists have for ages been recording and reporting events...the difference now and in the future will be the media used.

Do you enjoy reporting important school functions in your school magazine or taking part in essay competitions? Do you like to share your opinion on the issues that arise every other day all over the world? Do you like traveling and meeting different people? Ever dreamt of seeing yourself on TV, reporting the events of the day or writing for a leading daily or magazine? Then try your hand at journalism.

What is journalism?

Journalism deals with information...gathering, processing and finally presenting it to the world at large, which requires good coordination. The media ranges from print to the electronic. In this article, we will take a closer look at the print media.

Ever been asked to write on " Pen is mightier than the sword?" The press has considerable influence on the readers. But this power comes with responsibility to ensure authenticity of the news.

A lot of research goes into a topic. A rough draft is created for editing which later goes for proof reading. When the article is approved, the presentation comes into the picture, ie, photographs that will accompany it, layout, production etc.

In what way can you engage yourself?

You could be a reporter investigating an event or searching for a story, attending press conferences etc. Accuracy, brevity and meeting deadlines are essential for this role.

You could be a special correspondent reporting on your area of expertise ranging

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from politics to sports, else you could be assigned a specific area or region.

If traveling is not your cup of tea, then you could get into editing news where you would be required to review stories and 'touch it up' a little.

You could get into feature writing, which requires getting into the details of a subject of interest. If freelancing sounds more appealing, then you could become a freelance journalist covering a wide spectrum of events and issues or you could write for a specific column on a regular basis on any subject like humour, snippets, etc.

Entry into journalism

Entry is usually through direct appointment as trainee for which you require a graduate degree. A degree in journalism from a reputed institute would make your entry easier. Post-graduate courses in journalism and mass communication are available in many institutions. The Indian Institute of Mass Communication and the Times School of Journalism are two well known institutes.

Do you have it in you ?

What qualities are required? Needless to say, you must have a way with words. An unbiased approach is a must, as you will be talking about issues on which most probably millions of people will be having an opinion. You should also have the ability to weed out information. Stamina and willingness to work irregular hours are other qualities required.

The future

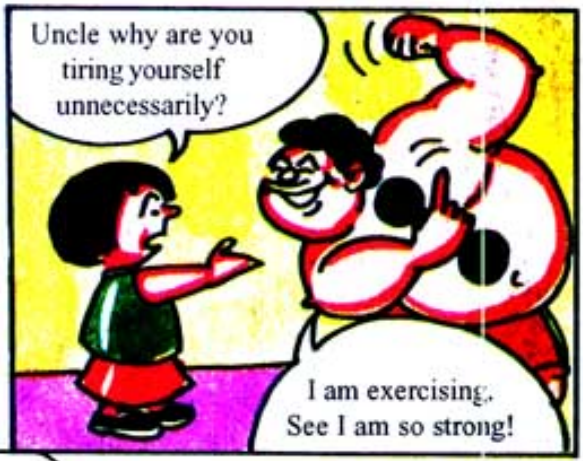
The scope of journalism is vast with the diverse media used to reach the people. No man is an island…the need for getting information will always be there!

Interested? You can search for information on journalism as a career!

Next month: ADVERTISING
Feed back to:
Gokulam@careersindia.com

INVINCIBLE

Story : Avantika
Illustration : Pillai



Cover Story

MYSTERY OF THE MONSOONS!

Rain, rain, go away, come again another day... All of us are familiar with this nursery rhyme. But during the monsoons, it rains and rains for weeks together, even when you ask the rains to go away! Have you wondered why this happens? Why does it rain heavily almost during the same period every year? We, at Gokulam, wondered too! So we asked a meteorologist (weatherman) to unravel this mystery for us.

For those of you in Kerala, and the North eastern states, the monsoons might have set in, in the first week of June. For the others (except parts of Andhra and Tamilnadu and north western India which are in the rain shadow region) it must have set in by now. While most areas get copious rainfall due to the South West monsoons, between June and September, the other regions experience the North East monsoons between October and December.

What are monsoons?

* S.Balachandran

Why do they bring rainfall during the same period every year? The word monsoon is derived from the Arabic word 'mausim' meaning season. Monsoons are actually air currents or winds. When they originate in the seas (oceans) they carry moisture and blow over to the land. When their path is obstructed by high mountains they shed the moisture and that is why rainfall occurs. During the monsoons rainfall usually occurs over a large area and over a longer period of time.

But how and why are the air currents formed? Balachandran uncle, who is the Director (Research) at the Indian Meteorological Department, Chennai, readily agreed to enlighten our young readers.

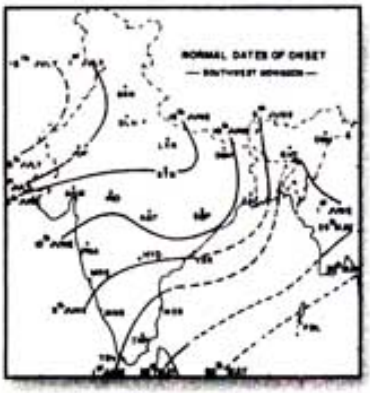
We already know that seasons are caused by the revolution of the earth around the sun. The part of the earth, which is facing the sun gets the direct rays of the sun and has summer, while the other part which is away from the sun experiences winter. India is in the tropics in the northern hemisphere, and experiences summer after April –May, as the sun moves north of the equator, towards India.

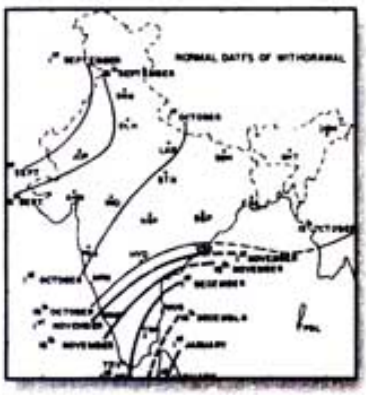
Since the sun's rays directly hit our subcontinent during summer the land gets heated up. We are surrounded by water bodies (seas/ocean) which also get heated up. However, specific heat (rate at which heating takes place), is different for land and water. So land gets heated quicker than water does. Hence the oceans are cooler than land even during summer.

When the temperature changes, air pressure also changes. Thus when land gets hotter, the air pressure over land is lower than that of the sea. So air currents are formed and they will move from the high pressure area (water bodies) to the low pressure area (land). As the sun moves towards the north, winds (strong air currents) blow from the south towards the north. Since our southern portion consists of seas, wind carries moisture along with it and we call it the south west monsoon.

Moisture laden winds from the Arabian Sea move north-eastwards and hit the Western Ghats. They shed most of their moisture on the windward side while very little rainfall occurs beyond the ghats (leeward side).

* Source: Indian Meteorological Department





Hence as the Arabian branch of the Southwest Monsoon progresses towards the north, coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat experience very heavy rainfall of about 200 to 250 cms.

Similarly, the winds blowing towards the northeastern states from the Bay of Bengal hit the Himalayas and take a turn towards the north and north-eastern states. The Bay branch of the monsoons is responsible for Cherrapunji being the wettest place in the world!

By first of September, the sun starts moving back towards the equator. The south west monsoon starts receding from the extremes of the country. By October, the reverse process begins. It is time for the North East monsoon, which picks up moisture from the Bay of Bengal and sheds it over the south eastern parts of the country, South Andhra, Tamilnadu and Kerala until December.

So, while kids in Cochin, Bombay or Guwahati are wading through sheets of water to get to school, screaming- "rain, rain go away", the Chennai kids are looking for the evasive rain clouds in the sky! But remember Chennaites, your monsoons will arrive only during Diwali and not now!

Why is there so much talk about good monsoons, failure of monsoons, excessive rains causing flooding of the Brahmaputra, farmers committing suicide, politicians losing elections ..... ? Everyone asks the weatherman to predict, and sometimes their predictions do go wrong. Why? "I gave you a very simplistic

explanation to the mystery of the monsoons. Actually , it is a very complex phenomenon affected by a multitude of factors. Sometimes if the sub-cloud (between land and cloud) temperature is very high, droplets of rain may evaporate and there will be no rain. Similarly, pollution, deforestation, and sometimes even minute change of conditions can alter the weather", says Balachandran uncle.

So, dear children, ultimately, nature remains a mystery ! A lot of studies are being conducted and continuous research is taking place all over the world to discover the secrets of nature. Kids, we do hope that some of you will in the future unravel the mysteries of nature! We, at Gokulam, will wait for the day when you write and tell us all about it!

SPOT IT RIGHT 7

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS GIVEN:

1. *Heidi*
2. *Johanna Spyri*
3. *Switzerland*
4. *Clara*
5. *False*

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Five Lucky winners are:

1. S. Akila,
Std VII, Sri Sankara Vidyalaya MHSS, Pondicherry

2. Nandita Raghunath,
Std VIII, Hari Sri Vidya Nidhi, Thrissur, Kerala

3. Rajiv Lochan,
Std X, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Mysore

4. Sudha Sundaram,
Std VIII, Thakur Public School, Mumbai

5. Shantanu S.Kulkarni,
Std V, A.J.D.E. Almeida High School, Goa

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your - **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contribution to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

- **Editor**

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2005, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize.

Viewpoint

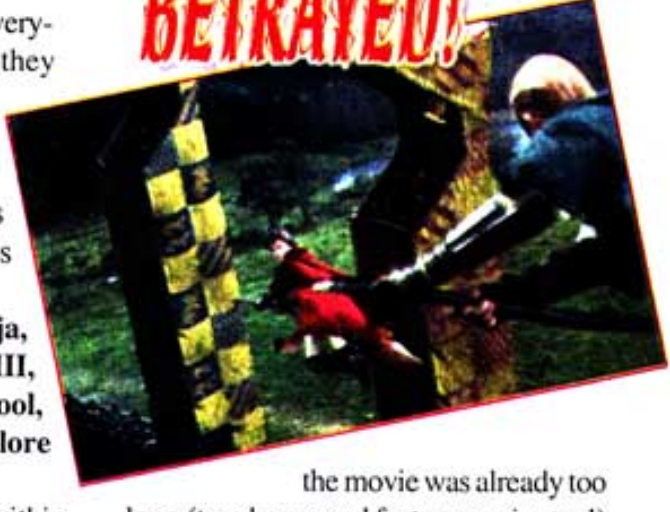
HARRY POTTER FANS BETRAYED!

The best part of the third Harry Potter book was the Quidditch cup won by Harry's team. I was surprised to find that it was not filmed. The movie was not as exciting as the book and I also felt that the movie was incomplete. Hope the director of the next movie will put in more graphics and make it more entertaining than this one.

- Vivek Mohan
Std IX, Indian School,
Muscat, UAE

To include the team's victory in the Quidditch World Cup, they would have had to show Cho Chang in the film. They might have wanted to surprise us with that in the next film. Since everything in this book is important, they would have had to include every incident in the book, in the movie. The movie would have become very long. So then, why all this fuss about something that anyway gives us scope for imagination?

- P.R.Sindhuja,
Std VIII,
National Public School,
Bangalore



Disappointment welled up within me when I watched the latest Harry Potter movie without the fantastic Quidditch cup finals. The Potter world without any flying fantasy was devoid of thrills. The touch of wizardry on these muggle films seemed to be ebbing away with the deliberate deletion of such historic moments. Gryffindor's triumph in Quidditch with Harry's help would have helped to increase the interest in the film.

- Lavanya Ramadurai,
Age 15,
Chennai

The Quidditch cup victory may have been left out because the movie was already too long (two hours and fortyone minutes!) Director Alfonso Cuaron concentrates more on the psychological and emotional changes relating to teenage.The plot delves into long lost secrets about Harry's

family too. That is probably why the director had to leave out many incidents.

- R. Balaji, Age 14, Trivandrum

Harry Potter films are not only meant for entertainment but also for learning. If they had included that moment of victory of Gryffindor in the Quidditch final, then it would have taught the viewers that with courage, determination and with a 'never say die' attitude one can achieve laurels in life. Their victory after eight years also imparts a moral that we have a chance to

succeed ultimately, no matter how many times we might have failed in our earlier attempts. The director has certainly deprived the viewers of this 'historic moment.'

- Kalpa Kaibalya,Std IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bhubaneswar

When we read the book we experience a roller coaster ride of emotions. Sometimes the book is hilarious, sometimes amusing. At times it is scary, at times dreary and at other times depressing. These elements which make the book appealing are missing in the movie. The movie has given importance to spectacular special effects, rather than the human aspect. As a big Harry Potter fan, I feel betrayed by the movie maker.

- J. Sriram Age 16, Chennai

Those who have not read the book will not be able to understand many parts of the movie. The Firebolt's appearance was at the end of the movie whereas it should have been at Christmas time. Usually a movie is only slightly different from the book, but this one was a big disappointment.

- Catherine Nipps, Age 13, Raipur

The director had no choice but to cut down, since the book has been written in great detail and he had to squeeze the story into the two and a half hour film. Maybe he felt that showing dementors was more important than the Gryffindor's victory. But I wonder why Harry learns the Patronus Charm, when there was no Quidditch Cup final!

- K. Apuroopa, Std X, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad.

I disagree with everybody who says the director had to cut out these events since the film would become too long. The movie would have been only ten minutes

longer than it is now and it would not have posed any problem.

- M. Vishnu vardhan, Std VI, Mount Carmel School, New Delhi

The Quidditch cup victory was a moment that gave Harry great happiness. In the entire film, Harry is portrayed as sad and angry, with dementors 'sucking' all the happiness. Quidditch was one happy moment that could have made all the difference. It should not have been left out.

- Rajiv Lochan, Std X, Kendriya Vidyalaya Mysore.

TATTOOS : GOOD OR BAD?

Think Tank

Tattoos are very popular today - Not the real ones but stickers! It's nice to receive a free tattoo sticker along with each chewing gum or toffee that we buy. But, are you aware that these stickers may cause allergic reactions on sensitive skins? Do these free gifts encourage the "sweet tooth" thereby causing more problems?

What do you think? Should we go in for tattoo stickers or say 'no' to them? Look at it from all angles and write either on the positive or negative side. Act now, to find a place in the September 2004 issue of Gokulam. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs.25/-

Topic Suggestion :

P. Saideepak, Korukonda

(Don't forget to include details of your age, class and residential address)

Last Date: 12.08.04

MAI-CHEN
...599.. ..600.. AN ALL TIME RECORD.
BOOK OF RECORDS, HERE I COME!
..1002 ..1003.. ...1004 ...1005..
?
I BETTER RUN AWAY BEFORE THEY SEE ME!
I DID NOT KNOW THAT THE GUYS CAN SKIP SO WELL
..1008.. ..1009.. 1010.. ..WOOF.. I CAN'T DO ANY MORE!
HEY, WHY DO YOU START YOUR COUNTING FROM 1000?
Story & illustration
J.disney

Fun time

FIND THE DIFFERENCES AND COLOUR THE PICTURES

ANSWERS: 1.necklace 2. bangles 3. water bottle 4. handbag lock 5. tie 6. belt 7. shoe lace

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